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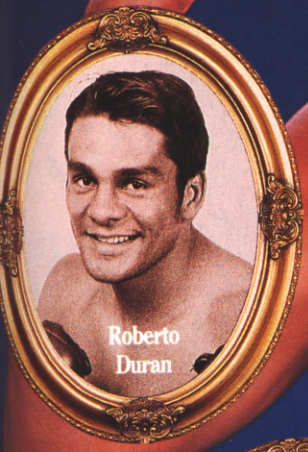
BENNY LEONARD vs. JOE GANS

CHAVEZ:

Unbeaten At 80-0, But What If He Had To Fight These Guys?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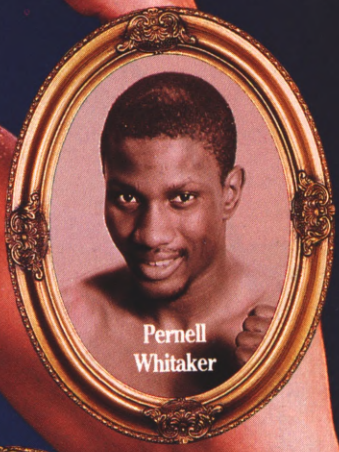
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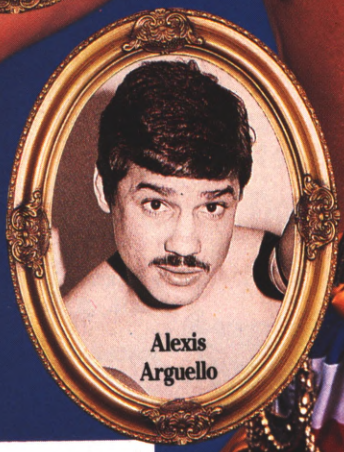
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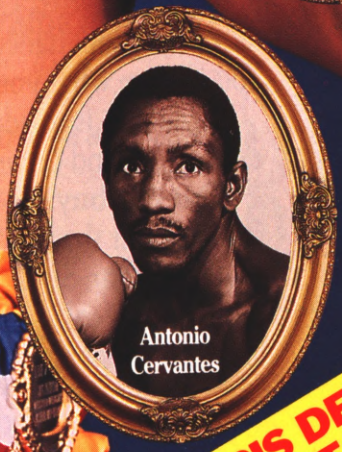
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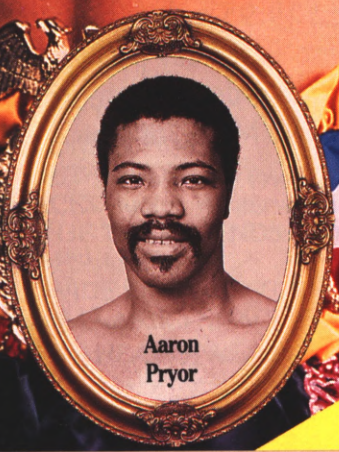
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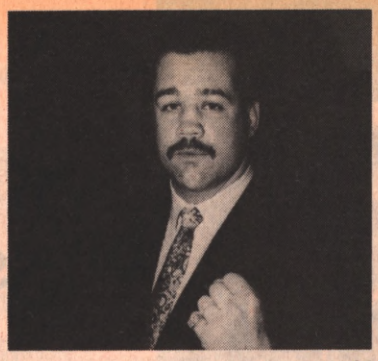

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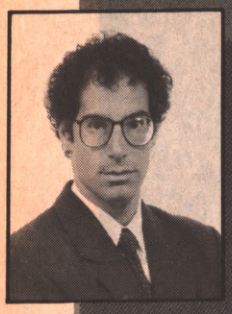

Ringside

Don King says "only in America." I say "only in boxing."

The feds and the tax men are after DK again, this time for allegedly cheating Mike Tyson and Bill Cayton, underpaying fighters, and overpaying the alphabet organizations. This type of thing seems to happen to King every couple of years. Imagine not trusting a promoter.

Twenty years ago, King found boxing. (What other legitimate business would have had him?) He's given the sport some of its biggest fights, all the while giving the fighters the short end. His philosophy—control the heavyweight title and you control the game—has worked. But he's left a trail of ripped-off boxers, the way a Lothario leaves a trail of jilted lovers.

It was on the night of June 1, 1984, that I first decided I didn't like promoters. I was in Buffalo, covering the first Livingstone Bramble-Boom Boom Mancini fight. Bramble ruined Mancini's face, and afterward, an indignant Bob Arum proclaimed, "If that kid fights again, I'll shoot Dave Wolf [Mancini's manager]."

Arum, an admitted liar, seemed so sincere. Might his thoughts have been different, I wondered, had Boom Boom lasted the distance and miraculously pulled out a split decision win?

Not all promoters, of course, are detestable. Some even care about their fighters. (To his credit, Arum gave Richie Sandoval a job after the bantamweight champion was badly injured in a 1986 title defense.) But few care about boxing. And because of their positions of power, they're able to capitalize from the chaos.

Is King's run finally over? Who knows. But if it is, he can say what he wants. I'll be saying "good riddance."

***

A few random thoughts on some of the subjects you'll be reading about in this issue:

- Sorry, Terry Norris (page 44), America isn't ready to make you a superstar. But that doesn't mean you can't make yourself the best fighter in boxing.
- Sugar Ray Leonard's ego (page 36) is bigger than Ross Perot's bank account. Leonard would be easier to take if he developed a self-deprecating sense of humor. Even an itsy-bitsy one.
- Thanks to Michael's Music in Freeport, New York, for allowing Iran Barkley to bang away on their drums (page 32). Our first choice for a photo was Bobby Czyz performing orthopedic surgery, but we couldn't find a consenting patient.

Steve Farhood
Editor-In-Chief

The Ring Jacket: The pride of our sportswear collection is The Official *Ring* Jacket. This satin jacket features gold striped cuffs and bottom. But the knockout punch comes with a four-color 60,000 stitch embroidered replica of *The Ring* logo located on the back of the jacket. As an added bonus, the logo is also embroidered on the front. Available in black only.
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Polo Shirts: Add a touch of class to your wardrobe with our 100% cotton polo shirt. The attractive three-color (red, black, & gold) embroidered *Ring* logo is located on the front. Available in tan only.
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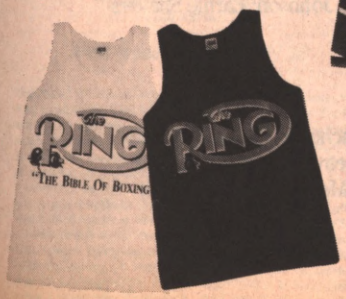

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Come Out Writing

THE BUCK NEVER STOPS

After reading the article on Buck Smith in your June 1992 issue ("200,000 Miles, 100 Fights: Buck Smith Drives Toward The Welter Title— Literally"), I was impressed, but also perplexed. I wondered how it could be possible that a boxer could hold such an outstanding record, yet be relatively unrecognized; I had read or heard about Smith only once before reading the story.

After reading the newsletter *Flash*, which questioned the legitimacy of Smith's record, I decided to do some investigating. In Ralph Citro's 1991 edition of *Computer Boxing Update*, I found no listing of Smith. How could this be? Did anyone at *The Ring* verify Smith's record before you printed the story?

DAVID A. HONUS
Santa Clara, CA

Editor's Note: Smith appears in the 1992 edition of Citro's recordbook. (As of February 1, 1992, he was listed as 95-2-1.) It remains difficult to chart his fights because he boxes most often in Oklahoma, which doesn't have a state athletic commission.

Smith: 100 fights and counting

Tyson: a champ for the ages

TYSON AND GREATNESS

After reading the cover story on Mike Tyson in your June issue ("What Now?"), I wasn't particularly surprised at how quickly and coldly you summed up Tyson's career. The press has never cared for Tyson because he said things you didn't like, and he was never as accessible as you desired.

Tyson is one of the greatest fighters in history. He reigned for 3½ years, made nine successful defenses (seven by kayo), and won the title at age 20, when most fighters are still amateurs. He is also among the most devastating punchers of all-time.

Tyson would've become a champion in any era.

ALONZO JEFFERSON
San Jose, CA

Cleveland Williams

FREE THE FIGHTS

How about the idea of putting heavyweight championship bouts on free TV, rather than pay-per-view or cable? This would ultimately give the champion the recognition of superstars like Michael Jordan and Jose Canseco. The massive exposure would bring unprecedented popularity to boxing throughout the country. It would also give boxers an opportunity to make money through endorsements. And the advertising revenues grossed by the networks would bring a nice profit for all involved. For proof, look at the Super Bowl.

This idea needs to be discussed by promoters and fighters alike.

MATTHEW MILLER
McKeesport, PA

BATTLE OF THE LEGENDS

Some heavyweight matchups for your "Battle Of The Legends" feature: Jack Dempsey-Mike Tyson; Muhammad Ali-Jack Johnson; Earnie Shavers-Jack Johnson; Earnie Shavers-Mike Tyson; Sonny Liston-Joe Louis.

ARMOND HAMILTON
Bridgeton, MO

Cleveland Williams-Floyd Patterson (heavyweight); Eddie Machen-Evander Holyfield (heavyweight); Harold Johnson-Prince Charles Williams (light heavyweight); Dick Tiger-Iran Barkley (middleweight or light heavyweight); Virgil Akins-Meldrick Taylor (welterweight); Joe Brown-Pernell Whitaker (lightweight).

RONALD IVIE
Grants Pass, OR ■

September 1992 Volume 71, No. 9

The RING

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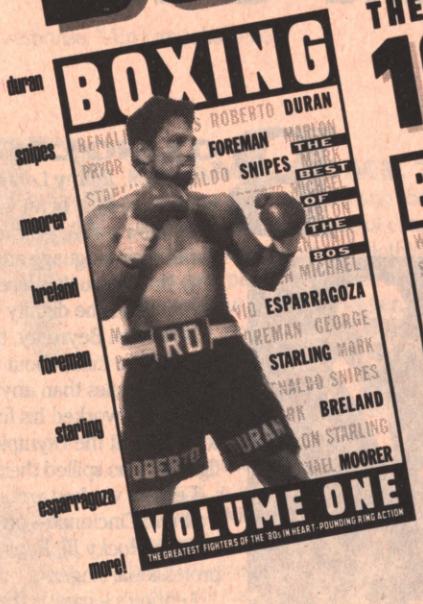

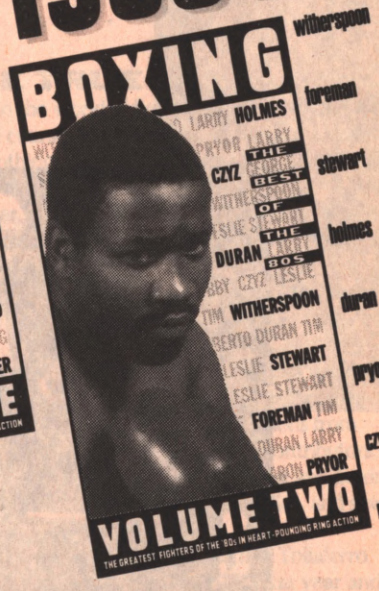

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Round One

BOXING LOSES A FRIEND

In April, Jimmy Lennon, who was regarded as the best fight announcer of his time, died of heart failure in Santa Monica, California. He was 79.

Lennon was a favorite of Mexican fans, who appreciated that he could speak their language and never once botched a fighter's name. When asked why he took such interest in proper pronunciation, Lennon replied, "A man is entitled to the dignity of his own name."

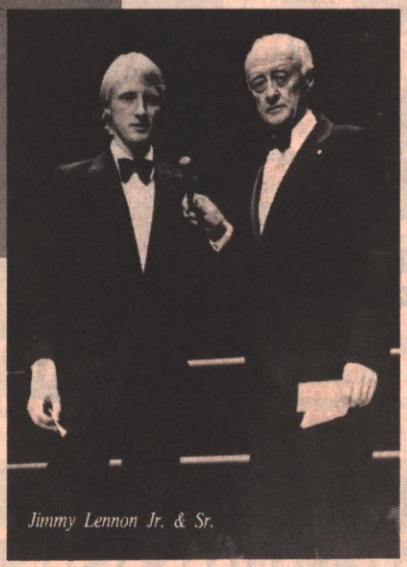
Said John Beyrooty, the boxing publicist for the Great Western Forum, "When you think about it, Jimmy did more for Mexican-American relations in Los Angeles than anybody else."

Lennon worked his first card at the Santa Monica Elks Club in 1943, then took over at the Olympic Auditorium. He became as legendary as any of the fighters who spilled their blood in the famed fight arena.

Lennon worked around the world, and once announced title fights in Detroit and Cincinnati—on the same day. He appeared in dozens of films, including, *Rocky III, Raging Bull,* and *The Main Event,* and also worked as a professional singer.

Lennon's legacy is the outstanding work of his son, Jimmy Jr., who is one of boxing's top ring announcers. He learned from the best.

—Joseph C. Tintle



Jimmy Lennon Jr. & Sr.

OLYMPIC BOXING ROUND THE CLOCK

True fight fans will do anything to see a match. This summer, those interested in watching all the fight action from the Olympics in Barcelona will be able to tune in to the first pay-per-view presentation of the Games, the *Olympics TripleCast.* It will be jointly produced by NBC and Cablevision.

Airing from July 26 to August 9, the PPV package will consist of three channels of 24-hour, commercial-free Olympic coverage. (Twelve hours of live programming, and 12 hours of replays.) One of the channels will show each boxing match in its entirety, from the preliminary rounds to the gold medal bouts.

Subscribers will pay $125 to receive the entire 15-day package. On some cable systems, there will also be a single-day option available at $29.95.

—Joseph C. Tintle

KINGDOM IN TROUBLE?

Lady justice is once again taking aim at Don King. In a sworn affidavit stemming from Tyson's lawsuit against ex-manager Bill Cayton, Joseph Maffia, a former controller for Don King Productions, alleged that King used several methods to bilk Tyson of millions of dollars.

Among the charges:

- King charged Tyson for the promoter's personal security and travel bills, as well as renovation to his Las Vegas house and New York City brownstone.

King: In trouble again?

● King's wife, sons, and son-in-law were paid fees as "consultants.' King's daughter was paid an annual salary of $52,000 as the president of the Mike Tyson Fan Club.

● There were "numerous instances" where Tyson's expenses were overstated to Cayton, who was due 20 percent of Tyson's net earnings.

● Trainers Rich Giachetti, Aaron Snowell, and Jay Bright were substantially underpaid for the Frank Bruno fight, with King and Tyson splitting the difference of what was withheld.

● King promoted Las Vegas fights in which his son, Carl, took a 50 percent managerial fee for his fighters. (Nevada rules dictate that a manager may take no more than 33 percent of a fighter's purse.)

In an earlier affidavit, Maffia alleged that King used Tyson's money to sign, or in some cases pay large purses to Julian Jackson, Julio Cesar Chavez, Azumah Nelson, Simon Brown, and Razor Ruddock.

"All of that is nothing but a lot of junk," was King's response. "Ain't no substance to that at all."

Jonathan Toliaferro

DREAMS COME TRUE

When a kid first walks into the world of boxing, holding a gym bag full of dreams, he must learn, of course, how to box. And that costs money.

Gym dues, equipment, clothing, transportation expenses, and, in most cases, fees paid to a trainer, are costly, particularly to a high school teenager without a job. Ira Becker, one of the owners of Gleason's Gym in Brooklyn, hopes to make those dreams of future world champions more affordable.

"We have youngsters here, and they require some help," Becker said. "Every day someone comes in, and he doesn't have dues. So I decided to see if we could raise some."

Becker started the Gleason's Athletic Club Inc., a non-profit organization that, in March, officially began assisting amateur boxers with the motto "Give a Kid a Dream." The program is funded by donations from white-collar boxers, neighborhood businesses, and other contributors. The board of directors includes New York *Daily News* cartoonist and boxing writer Bill Gallo, artist LeRoy Neiman, author Norman Mailer, and several politicians.

One beneficiary of the program is 16-year-old Jonathan Toliaferro. Toliaferro moved from Philadelphia to New York earlier this year and quickly found Gleason's. He is touted by Becker as the most promising of the four teenagers currently enrolled in the program. He has set his sights on the Olympics, "and then a world championship."

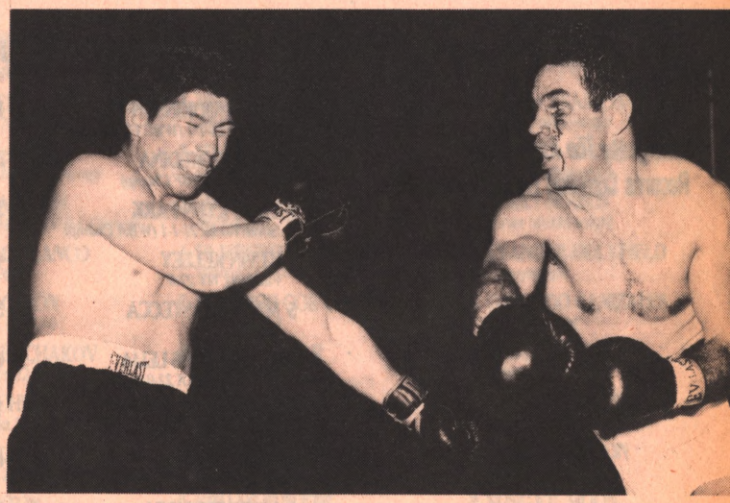
"The program takes a lot off my mind," he said. "I can concentrate on my boxing, and I don't have to put out a lot [of money]."

For more information, contact Gleason's Gym, 75 Front Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201.

—Arlene Schulman

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

It's come to this for **Roberto Duran**: Boxer-wrestler matches in Japan. In April, Duran succumbed to an armlock from opponent **Masakatsu Funaki** in the third round of their bout in Tokyo. According to *The Wrestling Observer* newsletter, "Duran was so out of shape, he wore a T-shirt during the match, but it couldn't hide his ample girth" . . . Former middleweight contender **Ernie Durando**, 67, died of lung cancer in Bayonne, New Jersey. A big puncher, Durando's opposition included **Paul Pender**, **Rocky Castellani**, **Joey Giardello**, **Kid Gavilan**, and **Gene Fullmer**. His career mark was 62-7. ■



Ernie Durando (right) vs. Harold Green

The Ring Ratings

For Period Ended May 12, 1992

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By *The Ring* Editors
Records Compiled By Eric Armit

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1 EVANDER HOLYFIELD
Atlanta, GA *27-0 (World Champ)*

2 RIDDICK BOWE
Brooklyn, NY *30-0*

3 RAZOR RUDDOCK
Canada *26-3-1*

4 LARRY HOLMES
Easton, PA *54-3*

5 TIM WITHERSPOON
Philadelphia, PA *37-3*

6 TONY TUCKER
Beverly Hills, CA *44-1*

7 GEORGE FOREMAN
Marshall, TX *71-3*

8 LENNOX LEWIS
England *20-0*

9 MICHAEL MOORER
Detroit, MI *28-0*

10 RAY MERCER
Newark, NJ *18-1*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 160 pounds

1 JULIAN JACKSON
Virgin Islands *44-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 JAMES TONEY
Ann Arbor, MI *30-0-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 MIKE McCALLUM
Brooklyn, NY *42-1-1*

4 SUMBU KALAMBAY
Italy *53-5-1*

5 ROY JONES
Pensacola, FL *17-0*

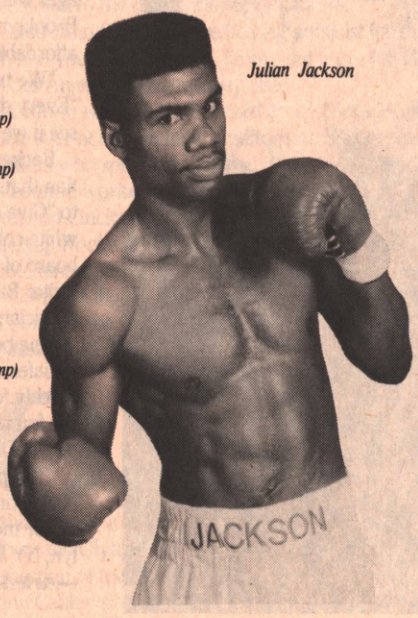
6 REGGIE JOHNSON
Houston, TX *31-2-1 (WBA Champ)*

7 LAMAR PARKS
Greeneville, SC *21-0*

8 BERNARD HOPKINS
Philadelphia, PA *17-1*

9 GERALD McCLELLAN
Detroit, MI *24-2*

10 STEVE COLLINS
Brockton, MA *21-2*



Julian Jackson

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 154 pounds

1 TERRY NORRIS
Mission Valley, CA *32-3 (WBC Champ)*

2 GIANFRANCO ROSI
Italy *55-3 (IBF Champ)*

3 VINNY PAZIENZA
Cranston, RI *31-5 (WBA Champ)*

4 JOHN DAVID JACKSON
Tucson, AZ *24-0*

5 VERNO PHILLIPS
New York, NY *16-5*

6 JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ
Argentina *34-1*

7 GILBERT DELE
France *32-1-1*

8 JORGE CASTRO
Argentina *65-3-2*

9 AARON DAVIS
Bronx, NY *33-1*

10 CARL DANIELS
St. Louis, MO *27-1*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 126 pounds

1 PAUL HODKINSON
England *20-1-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 MANUEL MEDINA
Mexico *41-3 (IBF Champ)*

3 YUNG KYUN PARK
South Korea *21-1-1 (WBA Champ)*

4 KEVIN KELLEY
Flushing, NY *27-0*

5 MAURIZIO STECCA
Italy *45-1*

6 JESSE JAMES LEIJA
San Antonio, TX *22-0-1*

7 TOM JOHNSON
Detroit, MI *28-2-1*

8 TROY DORSEY
Mansfield, TX *13-5-4*

9 LOUIE ESPINOZA
Phoenix, AZ *45-5-2*

10 COLIN McMILLAN
England *22-1*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 122 pounds

1 JESSE BENAVIDES
Corpus Christi, TX *35-1-1*

2 WELCOME NCITA
South Africa *31-0 (IBF Champ)*

3 THIERRY JACOB
France *38-3 (WBC Champ)*

4 WILFREDO VASQUEZ
Puerto Rico *32-6-3 (WBA Champ)*

5 KENNEDY McKINNEY
Las Vegas, NV *21-0-1*

6 TRACY PATTERSON
Highland, NY *44-2*

7 DANIEL ZARAGOZA
Mexico *44-6-1*

8 LUIS MENDOZA
Colombia *32-3-2*

9 RUDY ZAVALA
Rosemead, CA *16-0-1*

10 PEDRO DECIMA
Argentina *28-3*

Jesse Benavides

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 195 pounds

1 **BOBBY CZYZ**
Montgomery, NJ *40-5 (WBA Champ)*

2 **JAMES WARRING**
Miami, FL *13-1 (IBF Champ)*

3 **ANACLET WAMBA**
France *34-2 (WBC Champ)*

4 **JEFF LAMPKIN**
Youngstown, OH *35-13-1*

5 **ORLIN NORRIS**
Campo, CA *32-3*

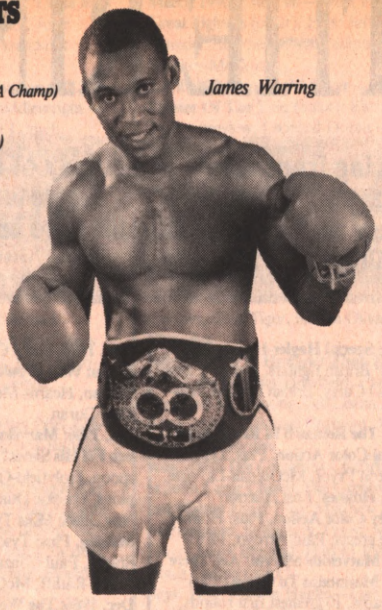
6 **TAOUFIK BELBOULI**
France *29-1-1*

7 **ALFRED COLE**
Newark, NJ *20-1*

8 **ROBERT DANIELS**
Miami, FL *19-2-1*

9 **AKIM TAFER**
France *13-3*

10 **DWIGHT QAWI**
Lindenwold, NJ *38-8-1*



James Warring

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1 **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS**
Mansfield, OH *32-4-2 (IBF Champ)*

2 **THOMAS HEARNS**
Detroit, MI *50-4-1*

3 **VIRGIL HILL**
Bismarck, ND *32-1*

4 **FRANK TATE**
Houston, TX *31-2*

5 **JEFF HARDING**
Australia *21-1 (WBC Champ)*

6 **LEEONZER BARBER**
Detroit, MI *15-1*

7 **CHRISTOPHE TIOZZO**
France *30-1*

8 **HENRY MASKE**
Germany *16-0*

9 **GUY WATERS**
Australia *14-2-1*

10 **SAUL MONTANA**
Mexico *17-1*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1 **IRAN BARKLEY**
Bronx, NY *29-7 (IBF Champ)*

2 **VICTOR CORDOBA**
N. Ireland *16-2 (WBA Champ)*

3 **MICHAEL NUNN**
Davenport, IA *37-1*

4 **CHRIS EUBANK**
England *31-0*

5 **MAURO GALVANO**
Italy *19-1-2 (WBC Champ)*

6 **NIGEL BENN**
England *31-2*

7 **TIM LITTLES**
Flint, MI *18-0*

8 **DARRIN VAN HORN**
Lexington, KY *47-3*

9 **TONY THORNTON**
Glassboro, NJ *28-4-1*

10 **MERQUI SOSA**
New York, NY *19-2-1*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 147 pounds

1 **BUDDY McGIRT**
Hauppauge, NY *55-2-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **MELDRICK TAYLOR**
Cheltenham, PA *29-2-1 (WBA Champ)*

3 **SIMON BROWN**
Germantown, MD *34-2*

4 **MAURICE BLOCKER**
Germantown, MD *33-2 (IBF Champ)*

5 **GENARO LEON**
Mexico *41-2-2*

6 **GLENWOOD BROWN**
Plainfield, NJ *35-3*

7 **CRISANTO ESPANA**
N. Ireland *25-0*

8 **SANTOS CARDONA**
Puerto Rico *22-3*

9 **YORI BOY CAMPAS**
Mexico *39-0*

10 **DAVID GONZALEZ**
San Jose, CA *28-1-1*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 140 pounds

1 **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Mexico *80-0 (WBC Champ)*

2 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Norfolk, VA *28-1*

3 **RAFAEL PINEDA**
Colombia *27-1 (IBF Champ)*

4 **AKINOBU HIRANAKA**
Japan *20-1 (WBA Champ)*

5 **TERRENCE ALLI**
Linden, NJ *49-7-2*

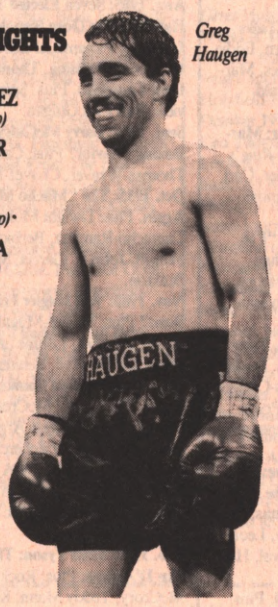
6 **CHARLES MURRAY**
Newark, NJ *24-1*

7 **HECTOR CAMACHO**
Big Cypress, FL *39-1*

8 **PAT BARRETT**
England *32-1-1*

9 **GREG HAUGEN**
Henderson, NV *30-4-1*

10 **RODNEY MOORE**
Philadelphia, PA *30-6-2*



Greg Haugen

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 135 pounds

1 **FREDDIE PENDLETON**
Miami, FL *32-17-3*

2 **JORGE PAEZ**
Mexico *40-4-4*

3 **TRACY SPANN**
Plainfield, NJ *27-1*

4 **DARRYLL TYSON**
Washington, D.C. *38-4*

5 **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
Takoma Park, MD *28-0*

6 **CHIL SUNG CHUN**
South Korea *17-1*

7 **JOEY GAMACHE**
Lewiston, ME *27-0*

8 **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
Mexico *26-0*

9 **FRANKIE MITCHELL**
Philadelphia, PA *28-1*

10 **TONY LOPEZ**
Sacramento, CA *39-3-1*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 130 pounds

1 **AZUMAH NELSON**
Ghana *34-2-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
Los Angeles, CA *25-0 (WBA Champ)*

3 **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
Puerto Rico *26-3 (IBF Champ)*

4 **JEFF FENECH**
Australia *26-1-1*

5 **BERNARD TAYLOR**
Knoxville, TN *44-2-2*

6 **GABE RUELAS**
Arleta, CA *29-1*

7 **CALVIN GROVE**
Philadelphia, PA *41-4*

8 **REGILIO TUUR**
Whitestone, NY *28-2-1*

9 **YUJI WATANABE**
Japan *9-0*

10 **RENATO CORNETT**
Australia *20-1-1*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 118 pounds

1 **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
Laredo, TX *31-1-1 (IBF Champ)*

2 **EDDIE COOK**
Las Vegas, NV *17-1 (WBA Champ)*

3 **JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI**
Japan *7-0-1*

4 **JUNIOR JONES**
Brooklyn, NY *22-0*

5 **VICTOR RABANALES**
Mexico *30-10-2 (WBC Champ)*

6 **DUKE McKENZIE**
England *31-2*

7 **ISRAEL CONTRERAS**
Venezuela *35-3-1*

8 **ELIECER JULIO**
Colombia *20-0*

9 **CECILIO ESPINO**
Los Angeles, CA *22-2*

10 **JAVIER LEON**
Mexico *37-4-2*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 115 pounds

1 **SUNG KIL MOON**
South Korea *16-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **ROBERT QUIROGA**
San Antonio, TX *19-0 (IBF Champ)*

3 **KATSUYA ONIZUKA**
Japan *18-0 (WBA Champ)*

4 **THALERNGSAK SITHBAOBAY**
Thailand *37-3*

5 **ARMANDO CASTRO**
Mexico *46-8-1*

6 **GREG RICHARDSON**
Youngstown, OH *29-4*

7 **VINCENZO BELCASTRO**
Italy *22-5-3*

8 **JOSE QUIRINO**
Mexico *28-6*

9 **GERRY PENALOSA**
Philippines *20-0-1*

10 **JOSE RUIZ**
Puerto Rico *22-2*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 112 pounds

1 **MUANGCHAI KITTIKASEM**
Thailand *17-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **DAVE McAULEY**
Ireland *18-2-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 **YONG KANG KIM**
South Korea *25-3 (WBA Champ)*

4 **RODOLFO BLANCO**
Colombia *26-6-1*

5 **SCOTTY OLSON**
Las Vegas, NV *22-0*

6 **YURI ARBACHAKOV**
Soviet Union *12-0*

7 **YUN UN CHIN**
South Korea *26-0*

8 **YSAIAS ZAMUDIO**
Blythe, CA *28-3-1*

9 **PAT CLINTON**
Scotland *19-1*

10 **ALBERTO JIMENEZ**
Mexico *19-2-1*

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 108 pounds

1 **HIROKI IOKA**
Japan *20-2-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **MYUNG WOO YUH**
South Korea *36-1*

3 **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
Phoenix, AZ *23-0 (IBF Champ)*

4 **HUMBERTO GONZALEZ**
Mexico *32-1 (WBC Champ)*

5 **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
Mexico *32-3-3*

6 **LEON SALAZAR**
Panama *15-3-1*

7 **JOSE DeJESUS**
Puerto Rico *26-2-1*

8 **DOMINGO SOSA**
Dominican Republic *16-1*

9 **KWANG SUN KIM**
South Korea *5-0*

10 **ROBINSON CUESTAS**
Panama *22-0*

POUND FOR POUND
Boxing's 10 Best Fighters, Pound For Pound

1 **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Junior Welterweight

2 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Junior Welterweight

3 **TERRY NORRIS**
Junior Middleweight

4 **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
Heavyweight

5 **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
Bantamweight

6 **BUDDY McGIRT**
Welterweight

7 **AZUMAH NELSON**
Junior Lightweight

8 **JULIAN JACKSON**
Middleweight

9 **SUNG KIL MOON**
Junior Bantamweight

10 **JAMES TONEY**
Middleweight

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May 1983: Michael Spinks Wins It All. Plus: Spinks-Braxton color, Bob Arum, Marvin Hagler, Collins-LaPaglia.

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Oct. 1983: (104-Page Special)—Hagler-Duran Program. Plus: Best fighter poll, Who's who?, Jose Sulaiman, Billy McNeece, Marty Servo, Milton McCory, Collin Jones.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Dec. 1983: Greg Page: 'Holmes Will Never Fight Me—He's A Chicken-Livered Coward!' Plus: Hagler-Duran, Tim Witherspoon, Jake LaMotta, Cedeno-Magri, "Winners" by Leroy Neiman.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

March 1984: Fighter Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler. Plus: *The Ring's* annual awards, 1983 fight calender, Carl Williams, Jung-Koo Chang, Chandler-Ruiz (color).

April 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: "I'm Gonna Be Better Than Ever!" Plus: *Ring's* ratings of 8,000 fighters, Henry Armstrong, Don Lee, Koji Kobayashi, Mancini-Chacon (color).

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.

July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Aug. 1984: *Ring* Olympic Special. Plus: Mark Breland, Sugar Ray Leonard, Frank Bruno, Bramble-Mancini (color), Hatcher-Bumphus (color).

Sept. 1984: The Scramble For Bramble: Livingstone's Wrapped Up In Being A Champion. Plus: Hearns-Duran, Rosario-Davis, Aaron Pryor, Eusebio Pedroza.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror In The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Bill Costello, nine gold medals, Don King, Davey Moore, memorabilia.

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, James Broad, boxing's best, Julian Jackson, Thomas-Witherspoon.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

March 1985: Fighter Of The Year: Thomas 'Hit Man' Hearns. Plus: Year-end awards, Darrell-Estrada, Nelson-Gomez, Arroyo-Alli.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, British fighters, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

July 1985: Marvelous Marvin! Are There Any More Mountains To Climb? Plus: Hagler-Hearns, 10 greatest first rounds, Tyson (2-0) rates the heavys, Tubbs-Page.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Carl Williams, Thomas-Weaver, Chavez-Mayweather I.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Dwight Muhammad Qawi, Camacho-Ramirez, Berbick-Green, Jeff Fenech, John E. Garcia, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.

March 1986: Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Special year-end awards, 1985 boxing diary, annual ratings, Evander Holyfield, Fenech-Coffee.

April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

July 1986: Spinks-Holmes II: Who Really Won? Plus: Frank Bruno, Richie Sandoval, Kevin Watts, Tyson-Tillis, Boza-Edwards-Alli, Johnson-Burns.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.

Oct. 1986: Marvelous Marvin: Can Anyone Fill His Shoes? Plus: Tim Witherspoon, Holyfield-Qawi, Panama's champions, Frankie Duarte, Tyson-Frazier.

Nov. 1986: Mike Tyson: History In The Making. Plus: Tyson-Berbick preview, Spinks, Paul Gonzales, Bobby Czyz, Tyson-Ratliff, McCallum-Jackson.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook Up The Boxing World. Plus: Rosario-Bramble, Honeyghan-Curry, Butch Lewis, Buster Drayton, Johnson-Emebe, Raging Bull II.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Evander Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fame Issue: Ali Elected Unanimously! Plus: Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney, Pazienza-Haugen II, Aaron Pryor.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple-Crown. Plus: Triple-crown champs, Matthew Hilton, Carlos Monzon interview, McCallum-Curry.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn—Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Chavez-Rosario, Roger Mayweather, Rocky Lockridge, bleeders, Bruno-Bugner, Fenech-Zarate, Tony Burton.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: George Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

June 1988: Sugar Ray Robinson Still The Sweetest! Plus: All-time middleweight ratings, Larry Holmes, Louie Lomeli, McGirt-Warren II, Haugen-Pazienza II.

July 1988: Special Tyson-Spinks Preview Issue. Plus: Donald Trump interview, Honeyghan-Vaca II, Foreman-Qawi, Barkley-Olajide.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde, Andries-Czyz.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Dec. 1988: Mike Tyson Special. Plus: Leonard-Lalonde preview, Barry McGuigan, alphabet wars, Jeff Fenech, Mauro Mina, Meldrick Taylor.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

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July 1991: Tyson's Title Hopes: He Ain't What He Used To Be . . . But It's Not Gonna Matter. Plus: Eusebio Pedroza, Myung Woo Yuh, Willie Meehan, Hearns-Hill preview, computer junior welterweight tournament, Gomez-Fenech, controversial heavyweight finishes (color).

August 1991: Fat, Funny, And Forty-Two, But Certainly No Fraud: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight . . . And The World A Thrill. Plus: Harry Greb, Louis-Conn I, making weight, computer welterweight tournament, Dempsey-Marciano, Holyfield-Foreman (color).

October 1991: A Hit Again—How Far Can Thomas Hearns Go? Plus: Battling Levinsky, Oba Carr, Dave McAuley, Muhammad Ali, Lou Ambers, Luther McCarty, ethnic matchups, computer light heavy tournament, Cerdan-Hagler, Rocky Marciano (color).

November 1991: Mike Tyson's Fight For Greatness: Will November 8 Be His Moment? Plus: Edwin Rosario, Jeff Fenech-Azumah Nelson, Overrated and Underrated, Giardello-Graham, Lennox Lewis, Marcel Cerdan, Muhammad Ali (color).

December 1991: Evander Holyfield vs. Mike Tyson: Who Will Win And Why. Plus: Eddie Aliano, Jack Britton, Muhammad Ali, Pernell Whitaker, Rating the 44 World Champions, Marcel Cerdan, Henry Cooper, Ezzard Charles-Jersey Joe Walcott (color).

January 1992: Our Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game. Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache, moving up in weight, Billy Conn-Michael Spinks, Joe Louis (color).

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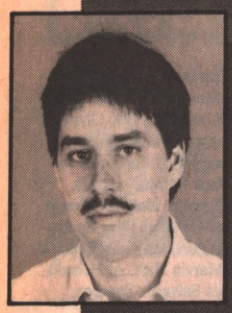


Ryan Out Loud

By Jeff Ryan

WHEN TWO SECONDS IS A LIFETIME

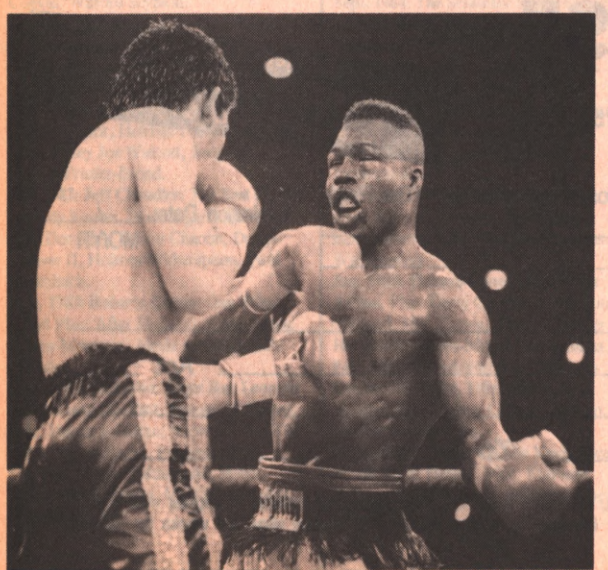
Not a lot can get done in two seconds. You tell your mother you'll be at the dinner table in two seconds, but you can't even grab the remote control and turn off MTV that fast. I tell my editor, the esteemed S. Farhood, that I need two more seconds to finish this column, and his groaning alone lasts longer than that. When John Elway works an end zone-to-end zone miracle "with no time to operate," he's still got, what, 45 seconds to a minute? In sports, two seconds is enough time for Christian Laettner's desperation heave at the basket, but little else.

Which brings us from Hail Mary to Hail Cesar. March 17, 1990. Las Vegas Hilton. Round 12. Meldrick Taylor rises after the first knockdown of his career, barely nods when referee Richard Steele asks if he's okay, but doesn't answer verbally. Fight stopped. Two seconds on the clock. Julio Cesar Chavez still unbeaten. Best fighter in boxing. Thrill of victory. Agony of defeat. No, really, *the agony of defeat.* That ski jumper on *Wide World Of Sports* almost instantly recovered. Meldrick Taylor, however, would remain face-down in a snowdrift, and, to this day, he still hasn't thawed out.

Even if Taylor were the biggest bum in boxing (a Don King, let's say), and not the sweetheart that he is, he *still* wouldn't have deserved what happened to him. This wasn't Billy Conn on his way to beating Joe Louis when he became too brazen in the 13th. It wasn't John Tate, comfortably ahead, falling unconscious with 45 seconds left against Mike Weaver, or Laurent Dauthuille, with a decision guaranteed, dropping at the feet of Jake LaMotta with 13 ticks left on the clock at Detroit's Olympia.

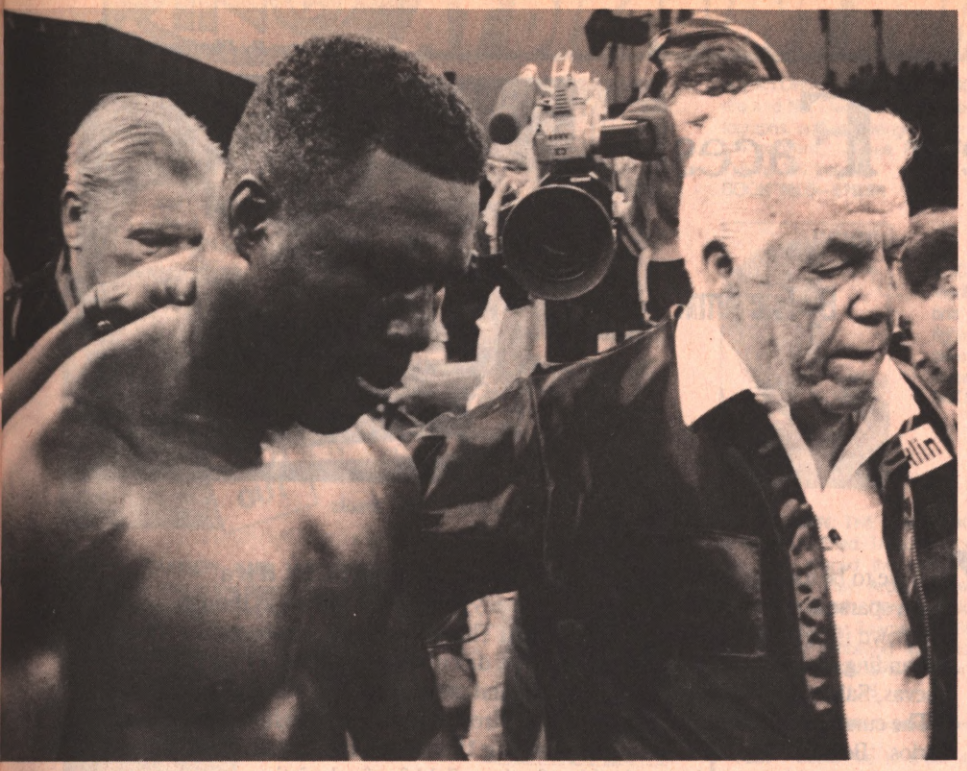
If Taylor survived *two seconds*, he wouldn't have just won another title, but also designation as the very best in his business. In two seconds, Chavez, despite being as far away from a neutral corner during Steele's count as the Vegas Hilton is from the Atlantic City Convention Center, couldn't possibly have heaved a followup punch at Taylor. In two seconds, he couldn't have heaved his mouthpiece at him. He couldn't have even *made the decision* to heave his mouthpiece.

Had Taylor lasted two seconds longer against Julio Cesar Chavez, his career might have taken a drastically different course.



That Steele seemed to have screwed up big time by stopping the fight only worsened Taylor's agony. His loss may have been the most heartbreaking in championship history. So maybe it's no real surprise that he couldn't ever recover. While falling in four rounds to Terry Norris in May, he looked like a fighter who, despite his heart and champion's character, will never again come close to being the man who shamrocked 'n' rolled for 11 rounds on St. Patrick's Day two years ago.

Taylor's plight could serve as a case study of the fragility of a fighter's psyche. Ironically, it is the fighter, the guy unfairly considered the sports world's dunce or some reflexive animal who attacks on command, to whom state of mind means everything. Prince Charles Williams can win a title and then, injected with confidence, be far better as a champion than he was as a contender. Hector Camacho, however, can be stunned once, lose his nerve, and never again fight with aggression.



Taylor is comforted by Lou Duva after suffering a crushing fourth-round kayo loss to Terry Norris.

Look at Taylor's post-Chavez performances and you see a fighter who was good, but hardly special: a sloppy decision over Primos Ramos; a boxing lesson force-fed to intimidated WBA welterweight king Aaron Davis; a split decision over Luis Garcia; a sixth-round kayo of nobody Ernie Chavez; and two climbs off the canvas en route to a decision over Glenwood Brown.

The brutal battle against Chavez left Taylor with a broken cheekbone, a cut mouth, and severe dehydration. But in most cases, fighters who haven't previously experienced serious punishment make complete physical recoveries from such beatings. Muhammad Ali, after the first Frazier fight, Thomas Hearns, following his kayo loss to Leonard, and Mike Tyson, after his upset at the fists of Buster Douglas, all came back strong, and looked good in some subsequent outings.

Had Steele allowed him to make it through those last two seconds, Taylor, too, would have rebounded. Instead of being a knockout loser, he would have been atop the sport, a guy who just happened to get careless and hit the floor moments before he made Chavez 67-1. Without having to worry about its fighter's fragile state of mind, and thus more confident in his chances, the Taylor camp probably wouldn't have insisted that Chavez climb to welterweight as a precondition of a rematch.

That would have made a return engagement far more likely, and, judging by the record rights fee HBO was willing to pay, the two fighters would have each earned purses of about $3-million. Taylor would have eventually moved to 147 pounds, probably beating Davis. But while on the throne, there would have been no lapses in concentration, as we saw against Garcia and Brown. There'd be no revenge obsession in the back of Taylor's mind, no burden of worrying if he'd ever get a second chance. He'd be dominant, again outspeeding Buddy McGirt, and proving against Maurice Blocker that a good boxer is no match for a great one.

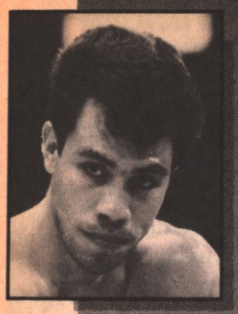
Long before the bell rang, Taylor's challenge of Norris looked to most experts like a crazy move, especially considering the vast difference in punching power, and the fact that one fighter's decline was coinciding with the other's rapid ascension. The Brown fight, it appears, had scared Taylor's braintrust. His trainer, Lou Duva, admitted, "I've been concerned the last couple fights that he hasn't looked good and he hasn't picked up."

The thinking of the Taylor camp seemed to be that time might be running out, and here was a chance at a $2-million payday. If Taylor pulled off the upset, he would have beaten the latest candidate for the title "best fighter in boxing" and increased his earnings potential tremendously. If he lost, at least it would have been to a good fighter for good money, and not an upset at the hands of someone like Brown or Garcia. And he'd still have the WBA welterweight title.

The problem with that theory is that it didn't take into consideration the effects of a *bad* Taylor loss. After being kayoed yet again—and this time without being able to justify it in any way—how will he respond? Who is the Taylor who sits on the throne now? Obviously, it is someone far diminished from the warrior who faced Chavez. But also someone far diminished from the one who squeaked by Glenwood Brown?

Meldrick Taylor is a big step closer to that time when he'll be hoping that his career can go on another year, or another six months, or just another fight longer.

And at the same time regretting that it wasn't about two seconds shorter. ■



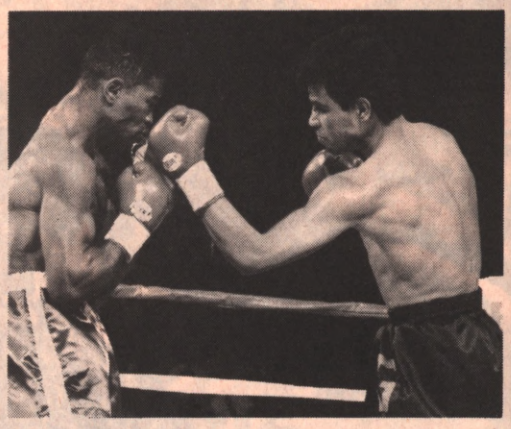
New Faces

Carlos "Bolillo" Gonzalez

Junior Welterweight

By Eric Armit

Photos By Photography Inc.



Gonzalez cooks vs. Tim Brooks

You have to be tough to survive at the Arena Coliseo in Mexico City. It is a small, sparse arena with an overhanging balcony that makes it seem as though the crowd is right in the ring with the fighters. That crowd is one of the most demanding in the world, having been fed on a diet of Carlos Zarate, Pipino Cuevas, Salvador Sanchez, Ruben Olivares, and other great Mexican fighters.

The current idol of the Coliseo is a curly-haired junior welterweight named Carlos "Bolillo" Gonzalez. The hard-punching 19-year-old has brutalized all of the local opposition, and is now looking further afield for fresh victims.

Since turning pro in July 1988, Gonzalez has scored 32 consecutive victories, with only two opponents, Oscar Lopez and Tim Brooks, having lasted the distance. Seventeen of his victims have failed to last the first three minutes, and only nine have taken him beyond the third round.

This new terror hails from Xochimilco, a small town that is known as Mexico's Venice because of the canals that wind through it. Gonzalez has six brothers and four sisters. It was his older brother Reyes who introduced him to boxing. Reyes Gonzalez fought as a powerpunching featherweight in the early-'80s and was also a big favorite at the Coliseo. He lost his important fights (to Marcos Villasana and Jackie Beard), but he inspired his younger brother.

Having his first fight at age 13, Carlos crammed in 85 amateur bouts in three years, losing only two. But he was too young for the major amateur competitions. When he turned pro as a lightweight, he was still only 16. He made an immediate impression by stopping his first 17 opponents, including a revenge fifth-round battering of Aaron Zarate, who had beaten him as an amateur.

His first bout outside the limits of Mexico City saw him taken the full 10 rounds by Lopez in Mexicali. It was only Lopez' third defeat in 18 bouts.

Back in Mexico City, Gonzalez scored three consecutive first-round wins, including his best victory to date, a destruction of experienced Colombian Amancio Castro. Castro had halted Jimmy Paul and lasted the distance against Rafael Pineda and Dingaan Thobela.

The 5'7½" Gonzalez scored another impressive win by tearing apart WBC Continental-Americas champion Memo Cruz inside of one round in a non-title fight. Castro and Cruz are the best opponents Gonzalez has faced. Neither, however, is championship caliber, or even close to it. Other victims, such as Felipe Rojas, Raul Feregrino, Jose Mendez, and Francisco Laguna, may also be comparitively unknown, but are not the kind of fighters who normally get brushed aside with the ease achieved by Gonzalez.

Francisco Degollado has handled all of the Gonzalez brothers who have boxed—there have been five in all. He and Gonzalez' adviser, the influential Ricardo Maldonado, are finding it difficult to hold back their young charge. Gonzalez is still a teenager, and due to his devastating power, has fought less than 87 rounds in 32 fights. As a result, he remains green, and his defense is poor. He has shown a strong chin, but will have to learn to slip more punches if he is to progress. Gonzalez also needs to meet a wider range of opponents, and

(Continued on page 71)

PRO RECORD

	1988	
July 1	Alfonso Martinez, Mexico City	KO 1
Sept. 18	Francisco Garcia, Mexico City	KO 1
Oct. 9	Max Llano, Mexico City	KO 3
Nov. 19	Aaron Zarate, Mexico City	KO 5
	1989	
Jan. 28	Enrique Picasso, Mexico City	KO 1
March 25	Leonardo Rosales, Mexico City	KO 1
May 13	Juan Ramirez, Mexico City	KO 2
June 7	Jaime Lopez, Mexico City	KO 4
June 21	Luis Vera, Mexico City	KO 2
Aug. 9	Alfonso Martinez, Mexico City	KO 1
Sept. 23	Marco Lopez, Mexico City	KO 2
Nov. 25	Juan Lopez, Mexico City	KO 3
	1990	
Jan. 26	Mario Estrada, Mexico City	KO 1
Feb. 10	Alfonso Martinez, Mexico City	KO 2
March 24	Gilberto Flores, Mexico City	KO 1
June 23	Gerardo Cedillo, Mexico City	KO 1
July 21	Felipe Rojas, Mexico City	KO 1
Sept. 5	Juan Ulloa, Mexico City	KO 6
Sept. 30	Oscar Lopez, Mexicali	W 10
Dec. 15	Raul Feregrino, Mexico City	KO 1
	1991	
Jan. 26	Mario Estrada, Mexico City	KO 1
March 7	Amancio Castro, Mexico City	KO 1
March 30	Francisco Laguna, Mexico City	KO 4
May 18	Antonio Ojeda, Mexico City	KO 1
June 17	Antonio Ortega, Tijuana	KO 6
Sept. 28	Jose Mendez, Mexico City	KO 6
Oct. 19	Fernando Rodriguez, Mexico City	KO 1
Nov. 30	Alberto S. Llanes, Mexico City	KO 1
Dec. 20	Memo Cruz, Mexico City	KO 1
	1992	
Feb. 5	Daniel Hernandez, Mexico City	KO 5
March 16	Cesar Flores, Mexico City	KO 1
May 11	Tim Brooks, Inglewood, CA	W 10

RECORD:	FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
	32	32	0	0	30

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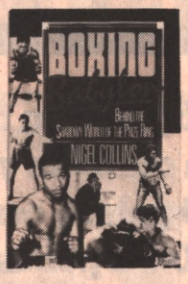

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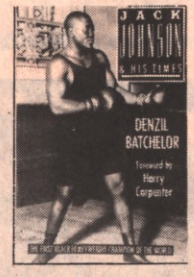

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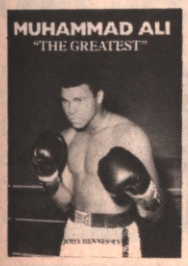

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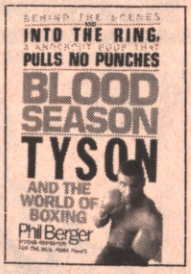

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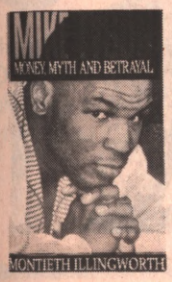

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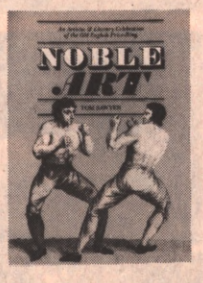

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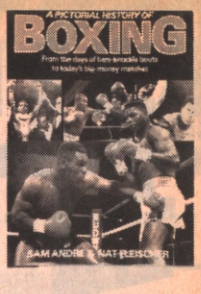

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PHOTO QUIZ

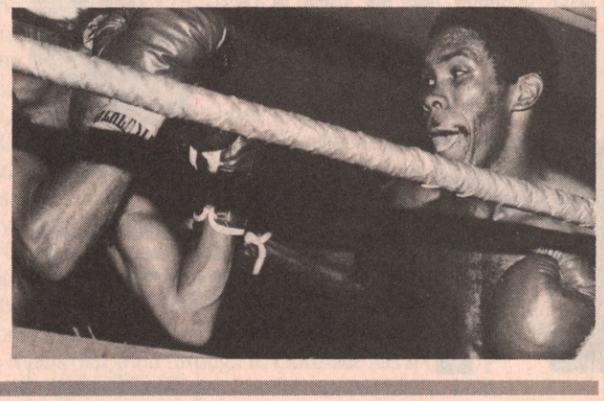
Test Your Boxing IQ

THE RING'S EXCLUSIVE

Can you identify the fighters in these photos? Award yourself 10 points for each question you answer correctly. If you score a total of 90-100 points, consider yourself a world champion. If you score 70-80 points, you rate as a top-10 contender. If you score 50-60 points, you're a clubfighter at best. Less than 50 points? Eat another piece of cheesecake and forget about that morning roadwork.

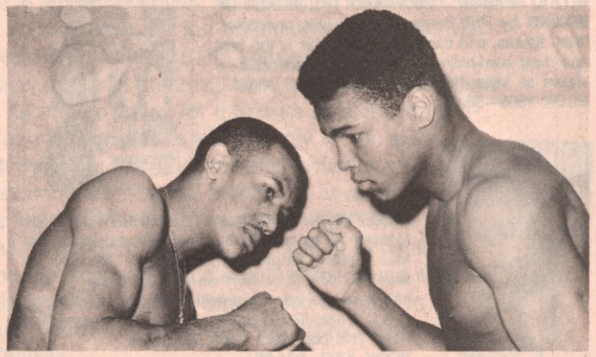
1

If you know your boxing ears, you'll be able to identify the fighter on the left. Okay, we're only kidding. The fighter on the *right* won a gold medal as an amateur, but kept losing the big ones as a pro. (The other guy is Larry Stanton.)



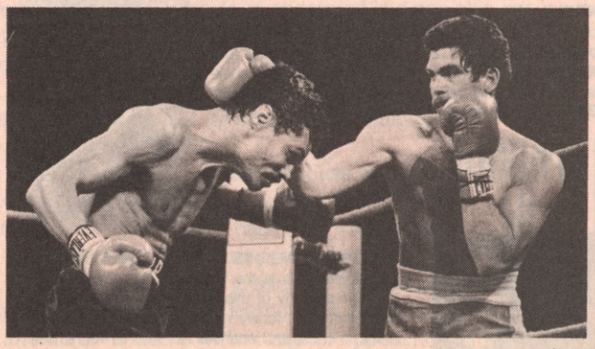
2

Our obligatory Muhammad Ali photo. This Ali opponent was the first fighter to floor "The Greatest." He did it with a left hook in Ali's 11th pro fight.



3

It took Alexis Arguello five years, but in February 1983, he avenged a previous loss by outpointing this slick Dominican lightweight.

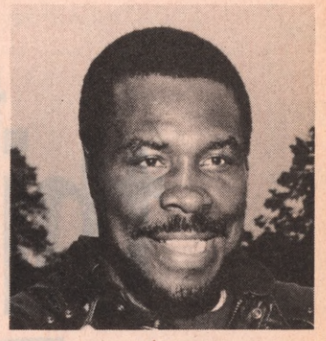


4

The hearts of British fight fans bled for this notorious bleeder, who fought for, but never won, the heavyweight title.

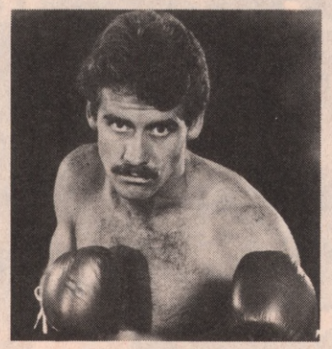
5

We're always asking you about Muhammad Ali's opponents, so consider this equal time for Joe Frazier. In 1981, this heavyweight held Smokin' Joe to a draw. It was Frazier's first fight in five years, and the last of his career.



6

The worst thing you can do is make a great fighter angry. In February 1985, this light heavyweight shined for two rounds against Michael Spinks. Then Spinks knocked him out in the third.



7

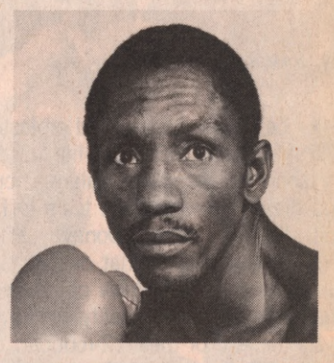
From his floppy hat down to his tassled boots, this '80s welterweight was all flash. He was good enough to beat the best in Europe, but failed when trying for the world title.

8

Too skinny? This fighter grew up to be heavyweight champion of the world. Our only hint: On his way up, he was blown away by a Hurricane.

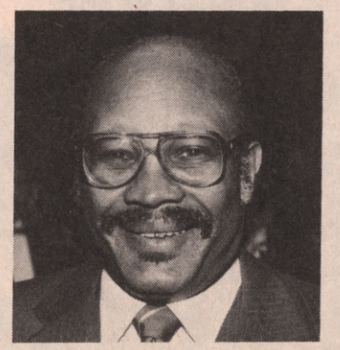
9

Unfortunately, this legendary Colombian is best-known for losses to Wilfred Benitez and Aaron Pryor. He was a two-time world champion, and among the finest boxers of his era.



10

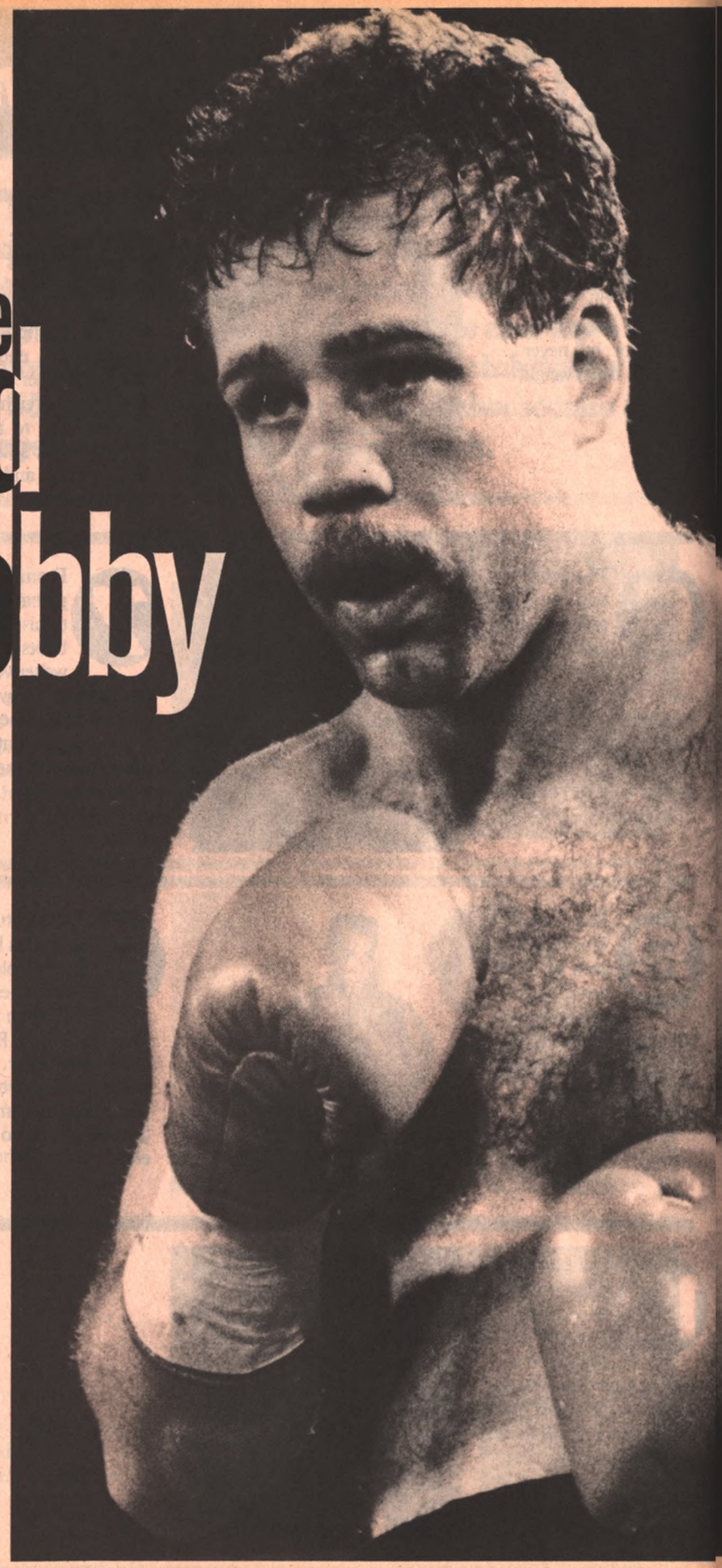
Our photographer spotted this former welterweight champion at a boxing dinner in November 1989. He hailed from Texas, and reigned in the mid-'60s.

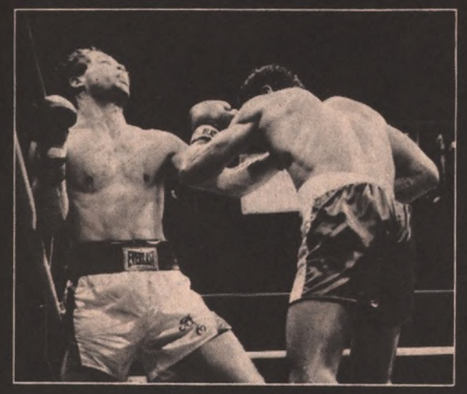


ANSWERS:

1) Howard Davis Jr.; 2) Sonny Banks; 3) Vilomar Fernandez; 4) Henry Cooper; 5) Jumbo Cummings; 6) David Sears; 7) Nino LaRocca; 8) Jimmy Ellis; 9) Antonio Cervantes; 10) Curtis Cokes

the third career of Bobby Czyz

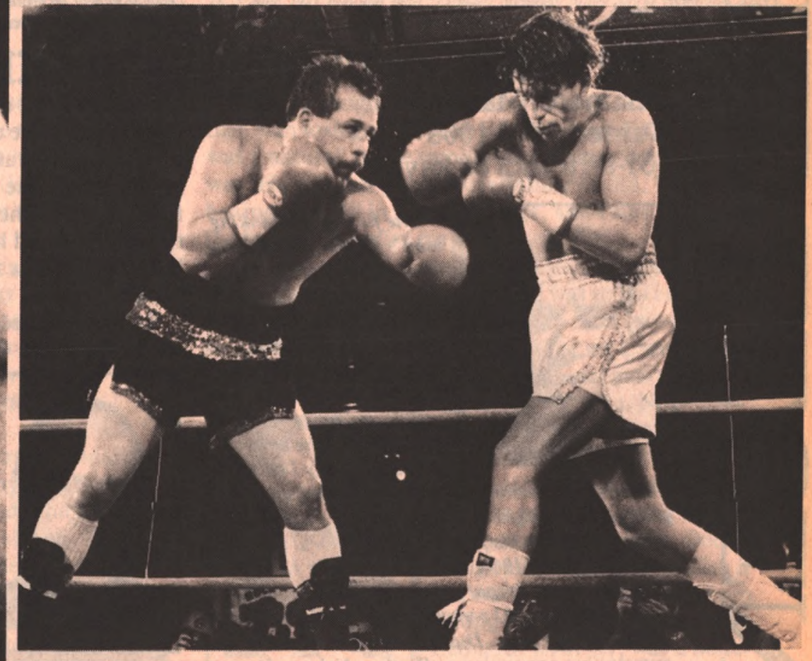




This Time, He's Playing It Smart

Above left: As a middleweight contender, Czyz was humbled by Mustafa Hamsho in 1982. Above: As a light heavyweight champion, he was dethroned by Prince Charles Williams in 1987.

In May, Czyz kept the WBA cruiserweight title by easily outscoring Don Lalonde in Las Vegas.



By Joseph C. Tintle

Since Bobby Czyz turned professional in April 1980, his life has had its share of success, failure, hopes, and dreams, and enough tears to fill a spit bucket. What Donny Lalonde found out in May is that despite Czyz' turbulent past, the WBA cruiserweight champion is still a quality fighter.

By the end of their 12-rounder, held at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas, "Golden Boy" Lalonde looked more like a poster boy for the Red Cross; blood pooled in his eyes and flowed from his nose and mouth.

Jerry Roth scored 116-110, Hector Hernandez 117-111, and Rafael Carabano 116-113, all for Czyz. *The Ring* saw Czyz ahead by 117-110.

At age 30, Czyz, 40-5 (26), feels he is at the top of his game, and he attributes that to ring maturity, two medical procedures, a more sensible diet, and a fulfilled personal life.

(Continued on page 56)

BATTLE OF THE LEGENDS

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Benny Leonard

New York, New York
Career: 1911-1924; 1931-1932
180-21-6 with 69 kayos
and 6 no-decisions

From the first minute of his first fight, which took place on a street-corner in New York City, Leonard displayed the skills and instincts of a natural. When maturity brought strength and punching power, he became close to unbeatable.

Leonard turned pro at age 15, and fought often. By 1913, he was facing world-class opposition, and in May 1917, he won the world lightweight title by kayoing Freddie Welsh in the ninth round.

Leonard kept the crown throughout World War I and until his retirement in 1925. His most notable defenses were classics vs. Richie Mitchell and southpaw Lew Tendler. In June 1922, he tried for Jack Britton's welterweight crown, but, seemingly en route to victory, was disqualified in round 13.

Having lost his savings in the stock market crash, Leonard returned to the ring in 1931, but never regained the glory of his youth. He fought for the last time in October 1932, and was stopped by future champion Jimmy McLarnin in the sixth round.

Joe Gans

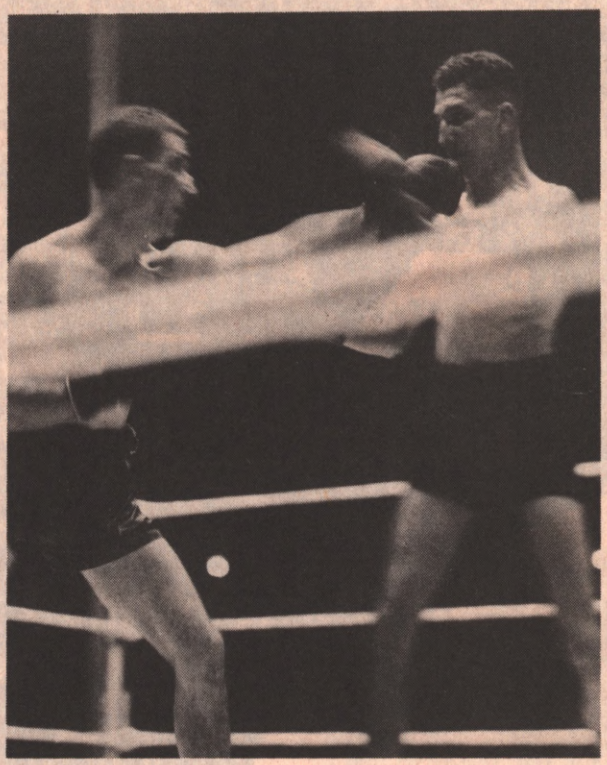
Baltimore, Maryland
Career: 1891-1909
131-9-16 with 85 kayos

The first great thinking man's fighter, Gans was a boxer who could feint, slip a punch, and counter without taking more than half a step. "The Old Master" studied his opponents whenever he could, and never wasted a punch. Until the emergence of Benny Leonard, he was regarded as the greatest lightweight in history.

Gans failed in his first try for the world title, when, in March 1900, he was stopped in 12 rounds by Frank Erne. Prepared for Erne's exceptional jab in the May 1902 rematch, Gans took the crown by first-round kayo. During his reign, he met such outstanding opposition as Battling Nelson, Jimmy Britt, and even Sam Langford. He kept the crown until July 1908, when he was knocked out in the 17th round by former victim Nelson. He lost the rematch as well, suffering a 21st-round kayo.

Gans fought his final bout in March 1909. Seventeen months later, he died of consumption at age 35. Boxing historians, however, continue to consider him immortal.

Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions who never met in the ring. In "Battle Of The Legends," the editors of THE RING play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, please write to us.



Leonard jabs at archrival Lew Tendler. The Philadelphian's power and southpaw style troubled the lightweight champion. Nonetheless, Leonard twice defeated him.

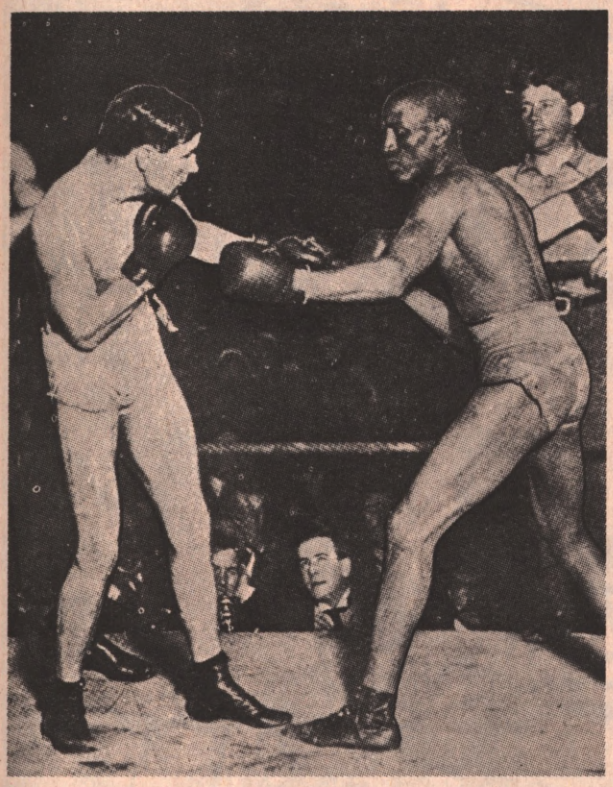
BOB SHERRICK

This is a great matchup between two fighters who dominated entire eras. Gans was one of the best fighters of his day. He was a very methodical guy with a pretty good defense. He was a tough man, but back then most fighters were. The era dictated that. Offensively, though, it would be one or two punches, then grab and hold. That's how most of the men fought at the turn of the century.

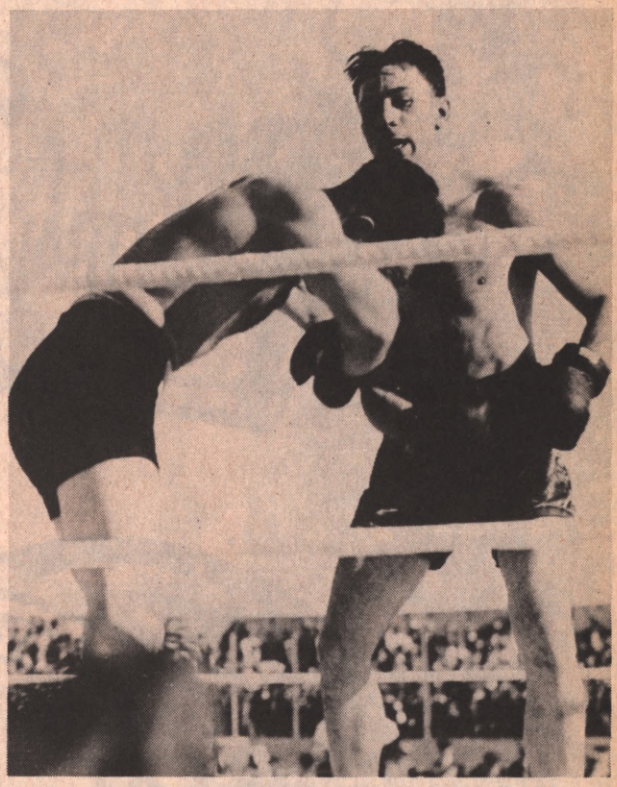
By the time Leonard came along, a new style of boxing had evolved. Guys moved more and threw more combinations. And Benny could do it all. Just on the little bit of him I've seen, I can understand why he was held in such high regard. He was a master boxer, he was fast, he could punch, and he fought every good fighter of his time.

I see this being a very rough fight. It would be close for the first couple of rounds, but Benny would start to display his superiority by the midway point. He fought all types of fighters, so he would have been able to cope with Gans. Leonard by 15-round decision.

Bob Sherrick is a New York-based boxing historian and fight film collector.



Gans squares off with San Francisco challenger Jimmy Britt before their bout in October 1904. "The Old Master" kept the crown by fifth-round disqualification.



In a June 1921 non-title bout, Leonard pummels future world champion Rocky Kansas. Eight months later, Kansas lost on points in a try for Leonard's title.

HANK KAPLAN

Gans and Leonard were the two greatest lightweights ever. Gans was the more deliberate of the two. He was very economical in everything he did. He had a great counter right hand that he'd throw over the other guy's jab. Defensively, Gans was great. His anticipation enabled him to move his head just enough to avoid big punches, in much the same way Ali did when he was young. Gans would also use his long arms to block punches, often times with an open glove, which frustrated his opponents.

Compared to Gans, Leonard was the more flashy fighter. He had great speed and athleticism. Leonard was one of the first fighters to take physical fitness seriously. He was also a great student of the game; he'd study his opposition, then do whatever he had to do to win.

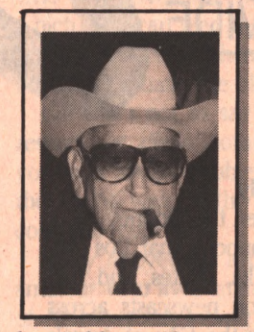
It's hard to imagine how brillant a boxing match this would be. Gans would be stalking with his deadly right hand, while Leonard would be boxing and moving in and out. Both would land their shots, but over 15 rounds, Leonard would outpoint Gans.

Hank Kaplan is among boxing's foremost archivists and historians.

MARTY COHEN

This is a tough one, because it's hard to imagine either man losing. Everyone who ever saw Gans said he was a natural, in the same way that, say, Babe Ruth was. He was just good at everything he did. The art of boxing was still in its early stages, and Gans was among the best of his entire era.

Leonard was an evolution of Gans; he benifited from fighting when he did. What Gans was to his era, Benny was to his. He could box and punch, and he was smart; he knew every inch of the ring. What set Leonard apart from other champions is that he fought many great fighters of his time. None of them could say they didn't get a chance to beat him.



Any time you match champions this great, it's going to make for an exceptional fight. Both Gans and Leonard could dish it out and take it. I could see both hitting the deck and getting up. Leonard, however, was a better ring general, and would have been able to take control in the later rounds and win on points.

Marty Cohen is a veteran promoter, manager, and trainer. ■

DREAMING FROM

A Tale of 2 City Kids

WILL BOXING PROVIDE THE GREAT ESCAPE?

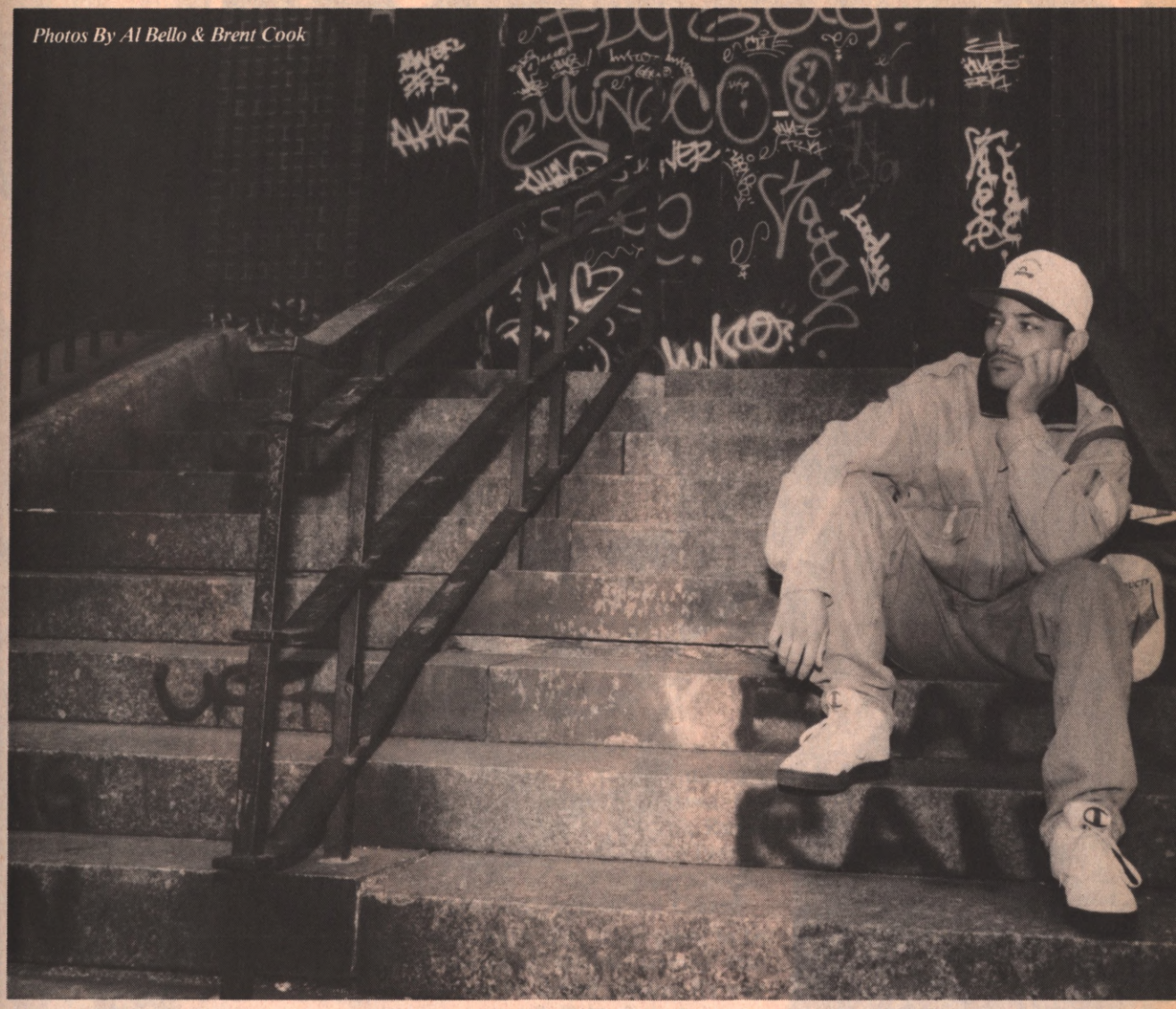
By Robert Cassidy

It wasn't long after the Rodney King verdict was announced that Los Angeles erupted. Blacks, whites, and Hispanics were seen on newscasts across the country turning the City of Angels into a living hell. The implications of that verdict ignited rioters to set out and balance the scales of justice. When they were finished, 52 people were dead.

Hit hardest was South Central Los Angeles, 46 square miles of hardship, despair, and shattered dreams. With rows of single-family houses and manicured lawns, South Central looks for all the world like suburban America. But its appearance merely disguises a portion of L.A. that is at constant war with itself. The area is as filled with violence as any inner city in the country. Just hours after the King verdict, an aerial

COAST TO COAST

Photos By Al Bello & Brent Cook



Opposite page: WBA junior lightweight champion Genaro Hernandez knew about the violence on the streets of South Central L.A. long before the recent rioting and looting. Above: Promising New York amateur Nicky Acevedo has been hardened by life in the merciless Alphabet City section of Manhattan. Like Hernandez, he dreams of escape.

view of South Central's landscape resembled a huge gas stove with all its burners turned on high.

It is a neighborhood that most of society turns its back on, like it's some kind of bad dream that will go away in the morning. And in the wake of the King verdict, its residents rose up to remind the rest of the world what a nightmare life can be.

"It's just not safe here," South Central resident and WBA junior lightweight champion Genaro Hernandez said one day after the King verdict, as his neighborhood burned around him. "I don't trust anyone around here. The police aren't around, and I don't even have a gun."

***

There is an immediate sense of danger in Alphabet City, a small stretch of blocks on Manhattan's Lower East Side that is a domicile for drug pushers and users. Most of the violence on these streets occurs between rival dealers who fight over the boundaries inside which they can feed their poison to the city's lost souls. When these invisible borders fluctuate, the blood spills freely.

But that's not to say that simple disrespect, or *dissin'* someone, won't get you in a lot of trouble. Just one look, the wrong way, at the wrong guy, can cost you your life.

Nicky Acevedo is a promising young amateur who lives smack in the middle of Alphabet City's drug trade. He could have easily become another crime statistic in a city that puts up shocking numbers. Growing up in such an atmosphere automatically qualifies one as a victim. *(Continued on page 64)*

Julio Cesar CHAVEZ:

UNBEATEN AT 80-0, BUT WHAT IF HE HAD TO FIGHT THE LEGENDS?

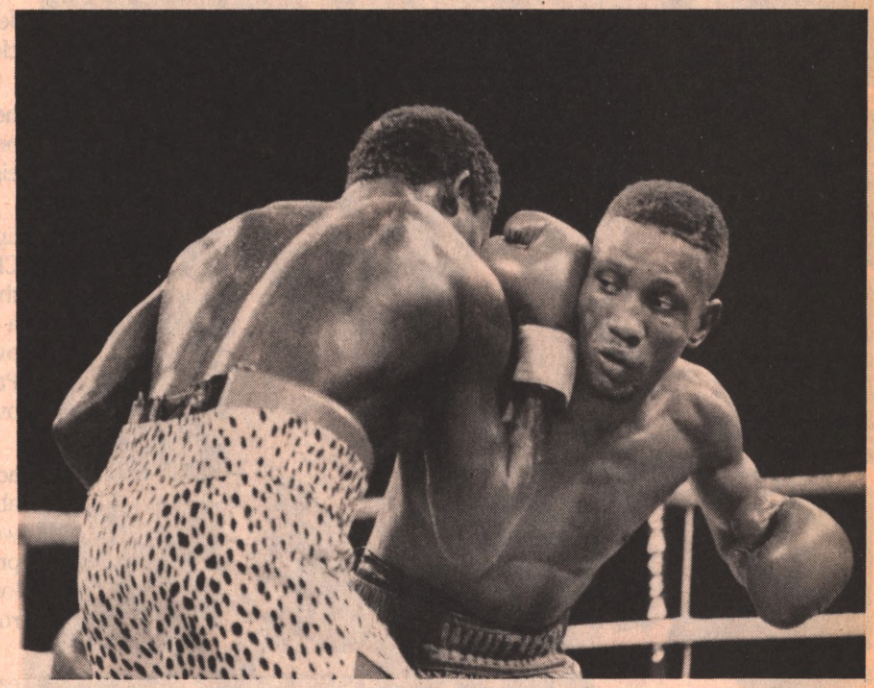
By Steve Farhood

Julio Cesar Chavez remains the best fighter in boxing; he can lose that title only in the ring or in retirement. But even the WBC super lightweight champion's most ardent supporters have been disappointed by the level of his recent competition. Since stopping Meldrick Taylor in March 1990, Chavez, 80-0 (69), has fought 11 times (including seven non-title bouts), with his toughest tests having come against John Duplessis, Lonnie Smith, and Angel Hernandez. *Hey Julio, it's time for a fight!*

We at *The Ring* have decided to do something about it. (As unlicensed matchmakers, we can do anything we want.) We've matched "J.C. Superstar" with the best 140-pounders of the last several years.

The lineup: former lightweight champion Pernell Whitaker, who now fights at 140 pounds, and may yet meet Chavez; Colombian legend Antonio Cervantes, who was the division's best fighter in the '70s; Roberto Duran, who made a pit stop at 140 pounds between title reigns at lightweight and welterweight; Aaron Pryor, who dominated the division in the '80s; and triple-crown titlist Alexis Arguello, who, on the night he lost to Pryor for the first time, probably would have beaten almost any other 140-pounder in history.

We're pitting Chavez against each fighter at his peak, of course. The only break we'll give the Mexican: He doesn't have to fight them all on one night.



PERNELL WHITAKER

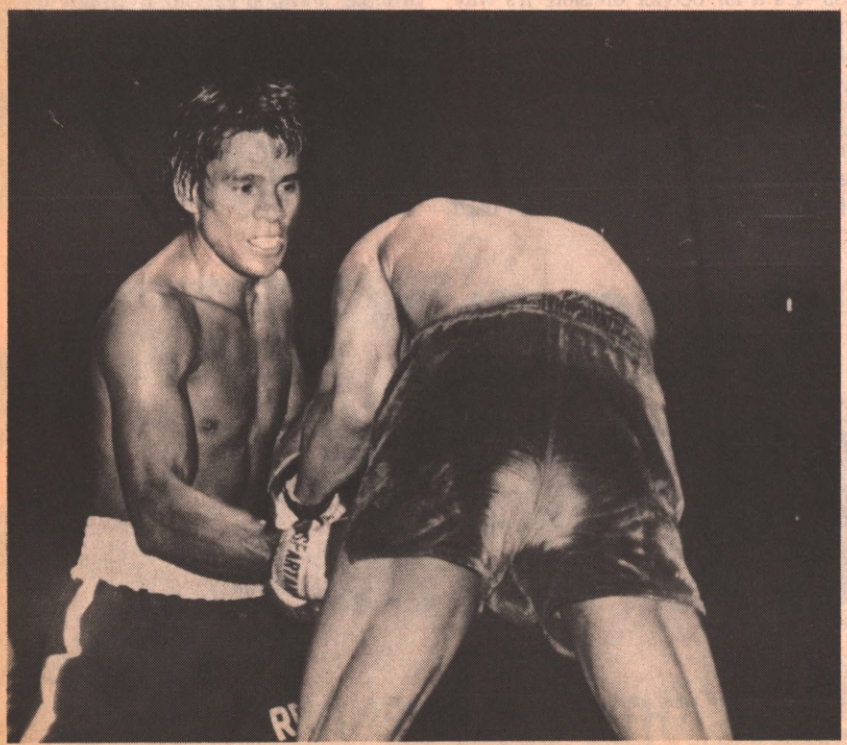
Qualifications: Dominated at lightweight, unifying the title and making a total of eight successful defenses. Defeated Greg Haugen, Jose Luis Ramirez, Azumah Nelson, and Jorge Paez. Is rated second on most of today's pound-for-pound lists, right behind Chavez.

Peak: Right now. Might prove to be less dominant at 140 pounds than 135—it's a far deeper division. It's way too early to tell. Fights flatfooted more often than he used to, but does so without sacrificing defense.

Why Chavez Would Win: Having outclassed most of his foes, Whitaker hasn't yet been dragged into the type of fight in which will wins out. It's hard to picture a bout with Chavez being anything else. Punch for punch and chin for chin, it's no contest.

Why Whitaker Would Win: Chavez has never met anyone with Whitaker's class. Taylor was fast, but proved too tough for his own good. Whitaker is too intelligent—and careful—to take a beating. He'd stay out of trouble, and pop Chavez from any and every angle for all 12 rounds.

The Pick: Speed kills. Chavez has to lose sometime, so why not to a great fighter like Whitaker? But don't expect "Sweet Pea" to stand and fight; if he doesn't move, he doesn't make it all 12.



ANTONIO CERVANTES

Qualifications: Made 16 successful defenses in two reigns. Was surprised by a 17-year-old Wilfred Benitez, but topped Nicolino Locche, Esteban DeJesus, and Peppermint Frazer. Tall, clever, and brilliant defensively.

Peak: Reigned until age 34, when he was kayoed by Pryor. Was at his best in the mid-'70s, when he made eight defenses in 20 months.

Why Chavez Would Win: Tall fighters have never troubled Chavez. Chugging forward, he'd miss often in the early rounds, but adjust and launch a characteristically savage body attack over the second half of the bout. "Kid Pambele" would have two choices: fold over or clinch. Either way, he loses.

Why Cervantes Would Win: With advantages in size, defense, and, arguably, one-punch power, the Colombian would welcome Chavez' forward progress and then punish him with long, straight combinations. Over 12 rounds or 15, his class would tell.

The Pick: Chavez on points, but not easily. Cervantes lost only twice in the '70s, both times to brilliant boxers (Benitez and Locche). Aggressive opponents made him fight his best.

ROBERTO DURAN

Qualifications: Rated with Benny Leonard as the greatest lightweight of all-time. Went on to win titles at welterweight, junior middleweight, and middleweight. Had it all: technical skills, animalistic ferocity, and brutal kayo power.

Peak: Sometime around his third fight with Esteban DeJesus (January 1978). At the start of his lightweight reign, Duran was raw. After his two fights with Sugar Ray Leonard, he was slow. In '78 and '79, however, he was the perfect fighting machine.

Why Chavez Would Win: Duran would make the mistake of hooking with a hooker. The infighting would be fierce, and the bout would go the distance. Stamina? Slight edge to Chavez. Chin? Slight edge to Chavez. Decision? Slight edge to Chavez.

Why Duran Would Win: Fire melts ice. In Montreal, Ray Leonard brought out Duran's very best. Same thing here. Quicker on his feet and stronger with his punches, Duran would lead after 10 rounds, then slow the pace to counter Chavez' late charge. Panama on points.

The Pick: Duran in a Fight of the Year classic. And he'd come off the floor to do it.

AARON PRYOR

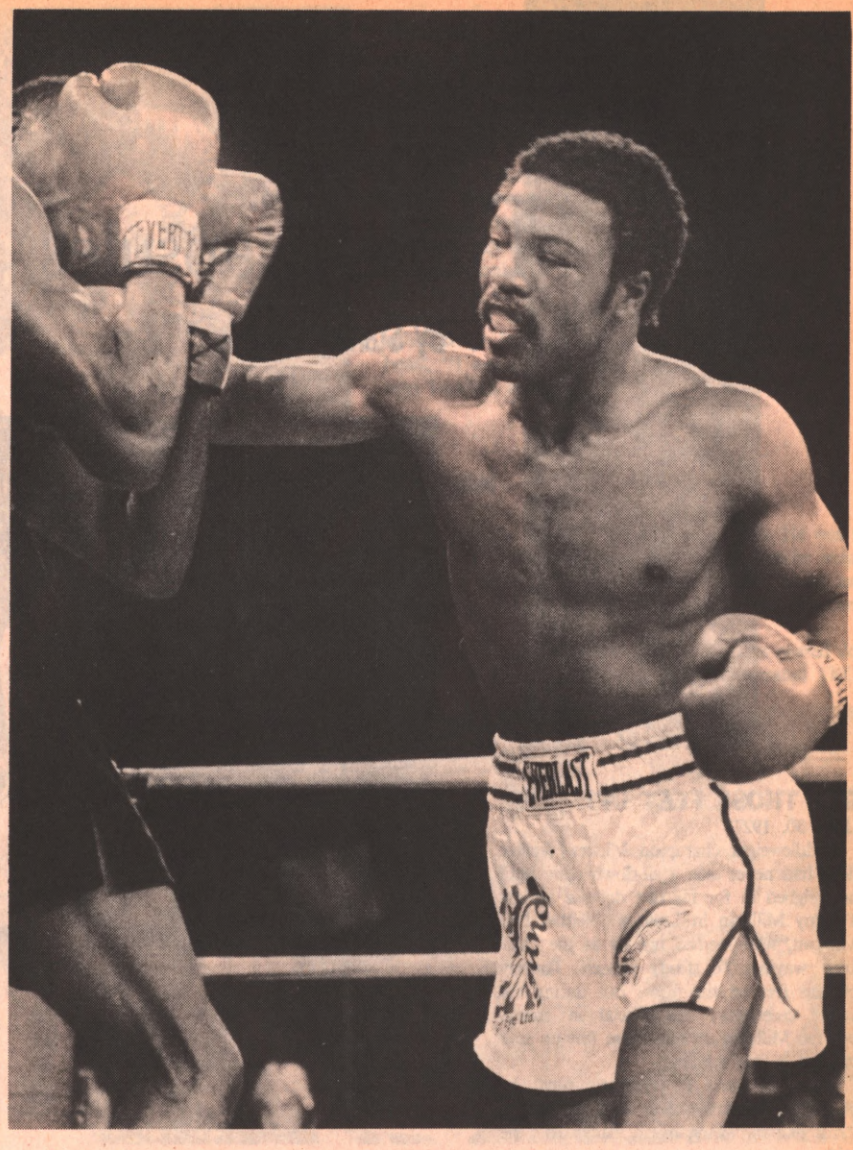
Qualifications: Made 10 successful defenses, and was unbeaten in his prime. Defeated two legends in Cervantes and Arguello. In the early-'80s, compared favorably to Sugar Ray Leonard, Alexis Arguello, Larry Holmes, Michael Spinks, and the rest of the game's best.

Peak: November 12, 1982, when he stopped Arguello in the Fight of the Decade. "The Hawk" boxed, punched, and brushed off the right crosses of a bonebreaking kayo puncher. Could *anyone* have beaten him that night?

Why Chavez Would Win: If Pryor pounds away with a windmill attack, all he gets is tired. If he boxes, as he did vs. Arguello, Chavez hunts him down. The key: Pryor was susceptible to a body attack.

Why Pryor Would Win: Smart enough to respect Chavez' chin, he'd emphasize his advantages in speed and mobility by keeping his distance. A fast starter, he'd build a significant points lead, and then keep Chavez under control by furiously flurrying two or three times per round.

The Pick: Chavez would do what Arguello failed to do; his mid-rounds body attack would set up a late stoppage.



ALEXIS ARGUELLO

Qualifications: World titles at featherweight, junior lightweight, and lightweight. Crushing power at any weight. Only one loss from 1974 to 1982. The epitome of ring intelligence and class.

Peak: In his late-20s, or toward the end of his reign at 130 pounds. It's difficult to say; unlike most fighters, he carried his punch with him each time he moved up.

Why Chavez Would Win: Arguello's warrior mentality would cost him; he'd nullify his advantages in height and reach by willingly fighting inside. And in phone booth warfare, Chavez' hook would be the dominant weapon.

Why Arguello Would Win: Neither fighter would have to move much, making Arguello's one glaring weakness, slow feet, a non-factor. Chavez would sponge punches in an effort to crowd Chavez, and then sponge some more during chest-to-chest combat.

The Pick: Styles make fights, and Chavez would make Arguello look sensational. Dare we suggest that J.C. Superstar might even crumble? Arguello by late-rounds stoppage. ■

Time Capsules

By Stanley Weston

With files of more than three million black-and-white and color negatives, *The Ring* magazine photo collection is by far the largest in the world. Each issue, we'll pore through the files to bring you some of the most unique boxing photographs ever taken

"KEEP HIM ON THE ROPES"

(July 16, 1917)

Former light heavyweight champion Philadelphia Jack O'Brien (left) advises featherweight champion Johnny Kilbane to be aggressive and keep Benny Leonard pinned on the ropes when they meet in Philadelphia on July 25.

Leonard, who had won the lightweight crown two months before, was a heavy favorite to beat his older, lighter foe. But everybody figured Kilbane would last a lot longer than three rounds, which he didn't. Only a true master like Leonard could have made it look so easy against a brilliant old pro like Kilbane.

GET THOSE FEET UP!

(June 30, 1927)

Middleweight champion Mickey Walker (left) had never seen a sit-down scale until he weighed in for his title defense against Tommy Milligan in London. Neither had Milligan, who seemed uneasy as the chair kept swaying. To steady himself, Tommy put his feet on the floor. But during the actual ceremony, the official in charge ordered Milligan to "get those feet up so I can get a true reading."

When it came to Walker's turn, he playfully rocked the chair back and forth. "Just like the swing in my backyard," he said.

After kayoing Milligan in the 10th round, the champ asked his manager, Jack Kearns, if he could buy one of those scales to bring back to America.

TEACHER, TEACHER

(Circa 1927)

Soon after he became light heavyweight champion, Tommy Loughran visited the Catholic school in Philadelphia where he had once been an honor student. Seated in the very same chair he had occupied as a student, Tommy raised his hand to ask the teacher if he could address the class. "Of course you can," she answered. Tommy spoke for more than 10 minutes, sounding more like the priest he had once intended to become than a world-renowned prize fighter.

WANNA QUIT?

(May 31, 1938)

Referee Arthur Donovan asks Barney Ross if he wants to continue his fight with Henry Armstrong. With the bell about to begin round 14, defending welterweight champion Ross shook his head affirmatively, and then went out to face Armstrong's relentless attack.

It had been a one-sided match from the start, and only Barney's enormous pride and courage kept him from submitting. He managed to stay the 15 rounds, and although he lost the title, he could still boast, "I was never stopped. I was never even knocked down."

WOUNDS OF WAR

(May 14, 1946)

Looking more like a loser than winner and still light heavyweight champion, Gus Lesnevich licks his wounds after a brutal bout with Freddie Mills at London's Harringay Arena. Although the highly partisan crowd cheered hometown hero Mills from start to finish, the fans rewarded the American with a standing ovation after he saved his crown by scoring a 10th-round stoppage.

START OF A MEMORABLE REIGN

(April 18, 1969)

Even at the start of his career, Cuba's Jose Napoles seemed destined for greatness. He was that rare fighter who could do everything with flawless ease and dynamic power. But when he weighed in for his first title fight, against welterweight champion Curtis Cokes (on scale), many astute observers believed the challenger had reached too far; Cokes was a hard-hitting and experienced titlist.

It was a close fight in the early rounds, but, like a great thoroughbred, Napoles roared down the stretch to stop his game opponent and become a world champion by 13th-round TKO.

WHERE AND WHEN?

(Unknown)

All we know about this picture is that the guy in the middle is Walker Smith Jr., who adopted the name Ray Robinson, and later added Sugar. He appears to be a teenager, which would date the picture around 1940. But who was the opponent he was about to face, and in what city? And who is the tall, distinguished man on the right?

We know the fight took place in an outdoor arena, and that the man on the left was Robinson's trainer. If you can fill in the blanks, we'd appreciate hearing from you.

SAMMY "THE CLUTCH" REMEMBERS

(January 13, 1974)

After being elected to the *Ring* magazine Hall of Fame, former lightweight champion Sammy Angott reflected on how he looked in his glory days, when he held his own against every world-class lightweight of his time.

They called Angott "The Clutch" because of the way he tied opponents into knots, holding them helpless as he banged away to the head and body. Bob Montgomery, who lost three of three bouts to Sammy, called him "The Octopus." Even Sugar Ray Robinson, who won two close decisions over The Clutch, commented, "That guy must have six arms."

In his 15-year career, Angott had 132 fights, winning 97. He was stopped only once, by Beau Jack. He died in 1980, at age 65.

Marching To The Beat Of A

Compiled by Joseph C. Tintle

When we stop to consider our places in the world, we can't help but wonder what our lives might have been like had we taken a different course. As kids, we see ourselves as policemen. Or athletes. Or doctors and lawyers. But never boxers.

What would today's boxers be doing if they hadn't pursued the sweet science? We thought we'd ask. Some of the answers were serious. Others were amusing. Still others were downright outrageous. Interestingly, only one of the fighters claimed that he had wanted to box since childhood.

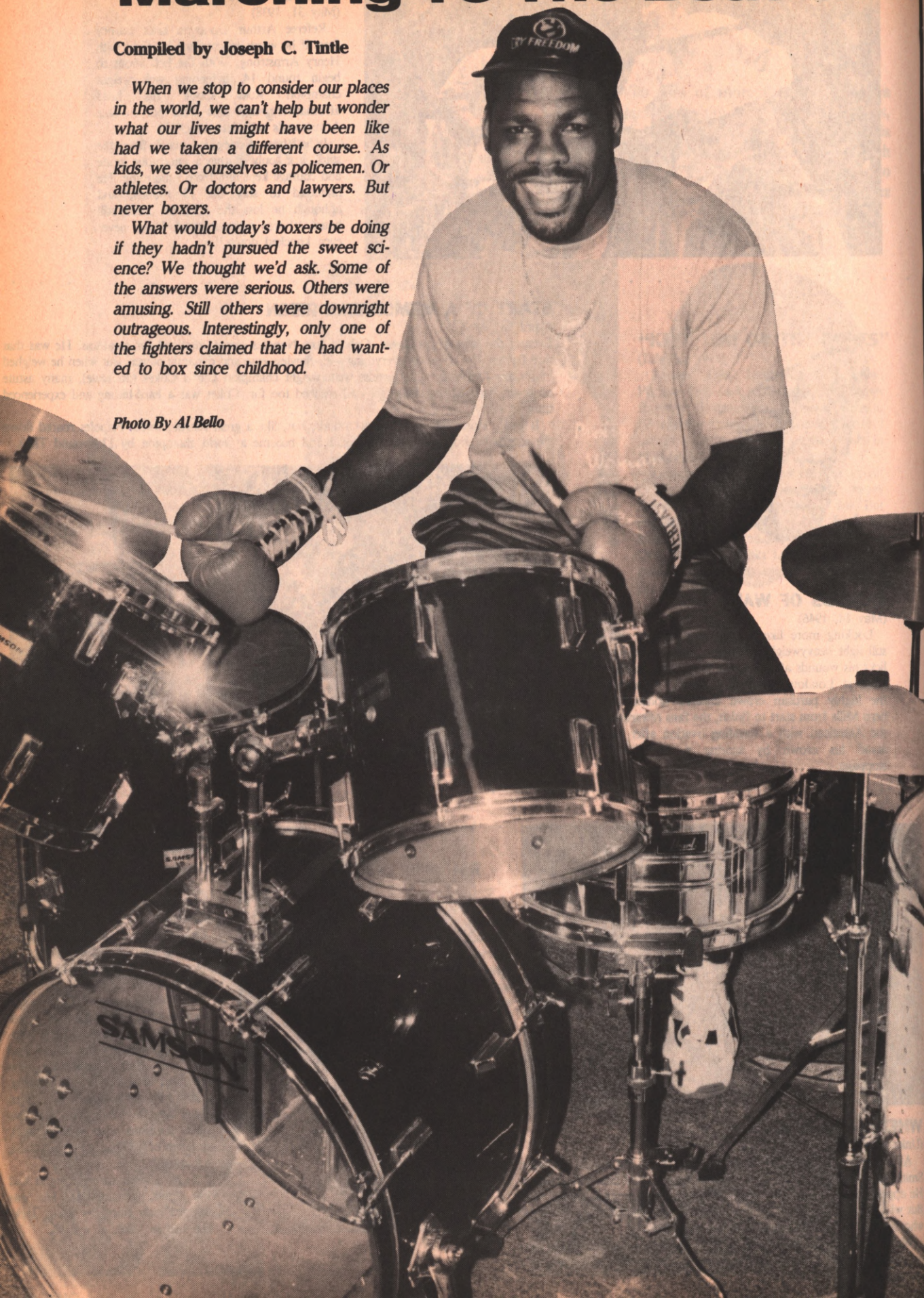


Photo By Al Bello

Different Drum

IRAN BARKLEY (IBF super middleweight champion): "When I was 12, I loved playing the drums. Played them all the time and was pretty good. I always thought that maybe one day I'd play drums with Teddy Pendergrass, The Four Tops, The Whispers, or The Temptations—big-name groups like that. But now, after boxing, maybe I'll become a comedian."

IF THEY

BOBBY CZYZ (WBA cruiserweight champion): "I wanted to be a doctor. Specifically an orthopedic surgeon. I was attracted to it in my sophomore year in high school because by then I'd had so many sports-related injuries: breaks, pulls, cracks, rips, tears. I got to the point that I could have injected myself with cortisone if I had wanted to. I actually got to enjoy talking with the doctors."

HADN'T

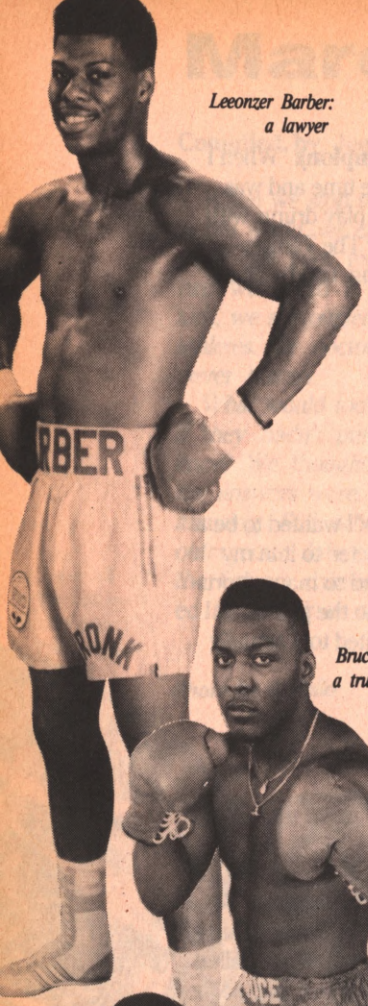
VINNY PAZIENZA (WBA junior middleweight champion): "For a long time I've been interested in radio, and being a talk show host has always been appealing to me. Now I have my own radio show. It's called *The Vinny Pazienza Show*. It's on WICE Radio in Providence every Monday, from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. It is a little bit of everything. There's sports, comedy, and music. You watch, I'm going to be the white Arsenio Hall."

BEEN

JULIAN JACKSON (WBC middleweight champion): "Long before I became a fighter, I was a very good all-round athlete. But above all, I liked to run, and I always dreamed of being a marathon runner. I think I might've made a decent living from that. Another area I was interested in was sailing the seas in my own fishing vessel. I'm a nature lover, and being on the water all day would've been the ideal job for me."

BOXERS...

MELDRICK TAYLOR (WBA welterweight champion): "There was a time when I thought I'd go to college and study architecture. I'm pretty good at drawing, and I enjoyed the idea of designing and constructing a building. What fascinated me, I think, were all the possible designs that go into making up the look of a building. If it wasn't for boxing, architecture would be for me."



Leeonzer Barber: a lawyer

Bruce Seldon: a truck driver

Reggie Johnson: a football player

THOMAS HEARNS (light heavyweight contender): "I had a couple of alternatives before I turned pro. Of course, living in Detroit, I could've gotten a job in an auto plant. I'm pretty good at rebuilding transmissions. But I think, above all, I would've liked to play basketball."

MIKE McCALLUM (middleweight contender): "I wanted to become a jockey, but I just kept getting taller and taller. So then I considered architecture. To this day, I like drawing buildings and decorating. I've got a real knack for drawing things. Right now, I'm drawing up plans to get back my world title."

MICHAEL MOORER (heavyweight contender): "I'd have been a police officer. I don't really know why, except that I just like the law. If not a police officer, then I would've tried to become a professional football player. Maybe a linebacker or a fullback because I just love the contact involved."

OBA CARR (junior welterweight contender): "I would've been a carpenter. I'm pretty good with my hands, and I like to build things. So far, all I've built, though, are stereo sets and a doghouse. Maybe someday I'll go to school and get my degree in carpentry."

JAMES TONEY (IBF middleweight champion): "As a kid, I wanted to be a football player. Play for the Raiders and be the bad boy of the NFL. I was good. In high school, I was All-Metro at quarterback and defensive back, and I really thought I could make it as a pro. But in 1987, I twisted my knee bad, and that ended my football career."

BRUCE SELDON (heavyweight contender): "Know what I wanted to be? A long-distance truck driver. Just driving those big old rigs looked fun. Long hauls would not have bothered me at all. Got the idea from watching that television show, *Convoy*, 17 years ago."

LEEONZER BARBER (light heavyweight contender): "The plan was to be a lawyer, and, in fact, I'm now studying pre-law at Wayne Community College. I'll eventually transfer to Michigan State. I like law because I'm good at finding out things about people. I'd make a good cross-examiner; I can sense when someone is not being truthful."

REGGIE JOHNSON (WBA middleweight chamnpion): "I've been boxing since I was 12. But there was a time when I thought about being a pro football player. All that changed because my dad, Robert, who grew up with George Foreman in Houston's Fifth Ward, was always talking boxing. And boxing just got drilled into my head."

HECTOR CAMACHO (welterweight contender): "Unlike a lot of fighters, I knew I wanted to be a boxer almost all of my life. I never really thought about another career. I always believed I'd make a good fighter. But these days I'm thinking about what I'll do after boxing. Perhaps acting. I have a role in an upcoming movie, and if all goes well, I might one day become an actor. Who knows? But for now, I'm being what I've always wanted to be—a macho fighter."

(Continued on page 53)

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Five Titles And Countless Memories

SUGAR RAY LEONARD REVIEWS HIS PICTURE-PERFECT CAREER

By Jeff Ryan

It is only about 12 miles from the corner-to-corner depression of L Street in Washington, D.C., to the million-dollar mansions of Potomac, Maryland, but if you make the trip with the intention of staying in Potomac once you get there, it's a whole lot longer. Sugar Ray Leonard made the journey the only way a kid from L Street ever could. He got there via Montreal, Miami Beach, Tucson, New Orleans, Houston, Reno, Las Vegas, and New York. Long trip. Lots of baggage, emotional and otherwise. But he always traveled first-class. And he took an awful lot of us along for the ride.

More than a year after Leonard retired following a loss to Terry Norris, *The Ring* visited him at his Maryland home. To our delight, the man we encountered was not the guarded Leonard of interviews past. Retirement has given him a renewed appreciation of his life and career, and, at the age of 36, he has dismantled some of those long-standing barricades.

We brought along a collection of photos—most of which he'd never seen before—from key moments in his life, and used them to stimulate our discussion. We weren't searching for a rehash of old stories, but were instead probing for some inner feelings or revelations that Leonard hadn't offered before.

Sugar Ray looked at his life through the eye of the camera. Now you're about to look at it through the eyes of the man himself.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

No major leaguer would dare call himself "The Babe" because anything less than 714 home runs would make him a career underachiever. And more than a scarred eyebrow or two was raised in the fight game when the words on our TV screen in the summer of '76 identified a cocky, grinning, American junior welterweight as SUGAR Ray Leonard. Over the next 15 years, he wouldn't make the old-timers forget Robinson, but grant him this: From now on, when someone refers to "The great Sugar Ray," someone else will have to ask, "Which one?"

My nickname was given to me by Sgt. Thomas Johnson, my boxing coach. I had just lost to Jerome Artis in the 1972 Olympic Trials, and I went to the dressing room to change. Someone said, "Hey, man, you could have been on the *Olympic Team."* I didn't realize how special or how significant it was until I heard it right then, so it kind of hit a nerve. I was crying, and Coach Johnson walked up to me and put his hands on my shoulder and said, "Sugar Man, don't worry, you'll be there in '76." The name stuck.

I didn't really appreciate it, though, until I became a more seasoned professional. You never appreciate things until the end of your career, when you start to reflect. When I met Sugar Ray Robinson in Las Vegas, it meant a great deal to me because I was supposedly carrying his name.

I never considered the name a pressure. I considered it an honor.

IT MUST BE THE SHOES

Good fighters are not necessarily good athletes. Knowing that Leonard is a great lover of sports, we wondered how he rated his athletic ability.

I'm quite agile, I'm quite versatile. I just started skiing. I skied with my lady in Aspen during New Year's and, right now, I'm like an intermediate. I play tennis. I play golf. I do whatever I want to do.

When I was growing up, I was not considered to be a super athlete. I was not looked upon as having any type of superior talent. Before I boxed, I did gymnastics. I tried football, but I'll tell you, and it may sound funny, I thought it was just too violent. Basketball was always the thing in the playground. And I liked track. One afternoon, I ran a practice run with the cross-country team. I was running in a pair of Chuck Taylor's, and I came in second behind a guy who was number one in the state. The coach wanted me to run, but my grades were not up to par.

Above: While tickling the ivories, Leonard seemed at peace. "I enjoy what I have amassed here," he said. Right: A look at his unique career brought myriad memories.

MONTREAL EXPOSE

Entering the 1976 Olympics in Montreal, Leonard was hardly a lock for the gold medal. Also eyeing the top step of the victory stand was Cuba's Andres Aldama, a thunderous puncher who sent his semifinal opponent out of the arena on a stretcher. Tapping into emotion, as much as his reservoir of skills, Leonard decisioned the Cuban, 5-0, in the finals at The Forum, and had him on the verge of a kayo at the final bell.

That fight in particular was strange because I was scared, yet confident. Although people really wanted me to win, a lot of them didn't think I had a chance. Me trying to defy the odds started back then.

I wasn't scared of the situation, I was scared of the Cuban. I went into this place called The Headquarters, where you could review tapes of previous performances from the Games. I was watching Aldama totally annihilate this guy from Germany. The room was darkened, so no one saw who was there. There were athletes from various sports, and they were saying, "Hey, this guy is fighting Sugar Ray next. He's gonna cream Sugar Ray."

I didn't say anything. I kept my head down, and when the clip was finished, I kind of slipped out. I was really mad at what they were saying. I guess I took it personally because they were Americans. It was two days before the gold medal fight, and I went right back to my room and exercised like crazy, like an additional workout right there was going to help me. It was gold or noth-

ing. Silver wouldn't mean anything.

SCHOOL DAZE

Legend has it that a teenaged Leonard, a promising amateur who had never had much of an appetite for streetfights, scored the best kayo of his life one day at Parkdale High School. Of course, everybody who told the story heard it from a friend who heard it from a friend. Fact or fiction?

That story was true. I was in gym, and I can't think of the guy's name, but we all called him "Superman" because he was so big and so tall. Someone grabbed me from behind and threw me against the lockers. My head hit the locker and I was a little dazed. So I looked up and saw who it was, and I said, "Sheeeeeet." I thought about throwing a punch, but then I told myself, "Nah, it's okay." Then I just started swinging at him, throwing these left hooks from far away. He kept laughing, and I kept throwing. But I was getting closer each time, and when I threw the fourth one—*bop!* I just dropped him. I must have shattered his nose.

UP STARES, DOWN STARES

Leonard took the WBC welterweight crown from Wilfred Benitez in November 1979, halting him in the final seconds of the 15th round. The bout lacked the shifting momentum of the Hearns wars, the animosity of the Duran fights, or the magnitude the Hagler upset. But it will always be remembered: It was the first of Leonard's five world titles, and it featured one of history's most intense prefight staredowns.

I was scared senseless. He had a presence and an aura. He had this thing about him, a coolness. He exuded confidence. It was so smooth the way he would execute that smirk during the staredown. If you go back and watch the staredown, I know that he was relaxed and I was clicking my teeth. Psychologically, it was an amateur trying to compete with a professional.

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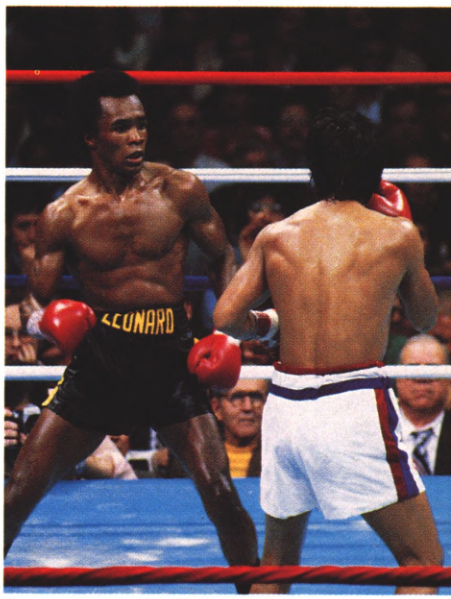
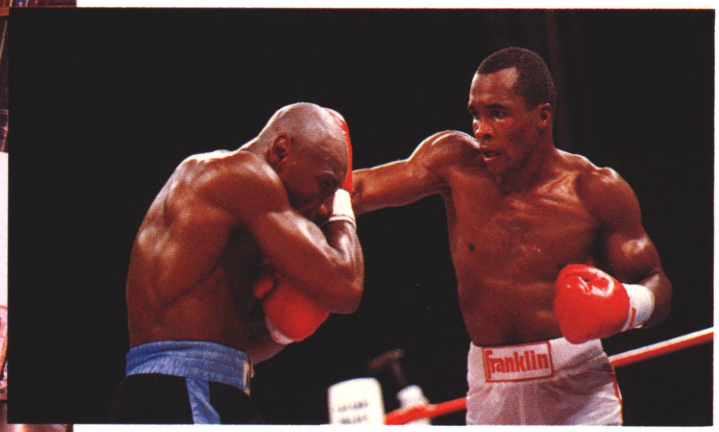
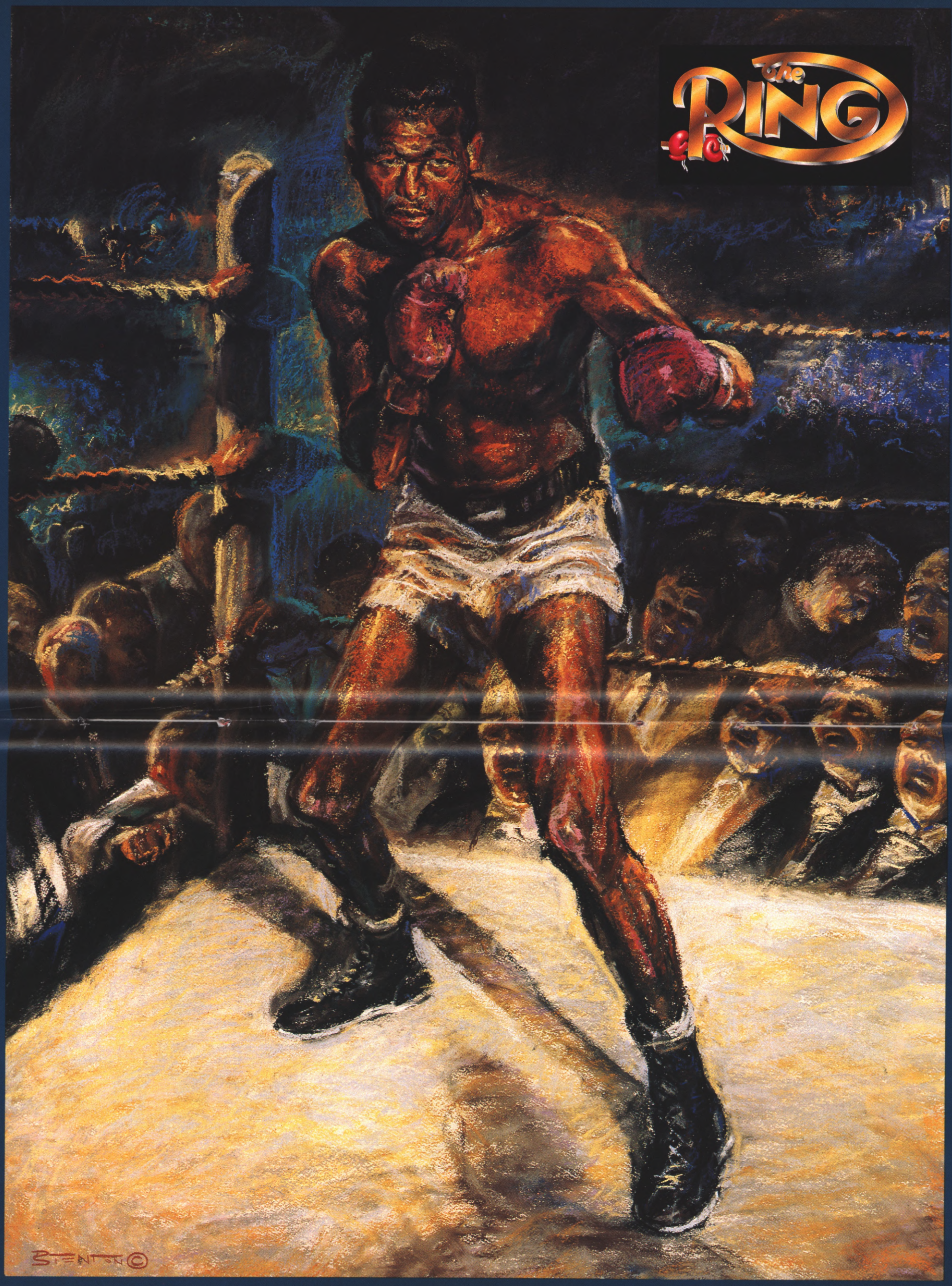


Leonard boxed masterfully in his second bout vs. Roberto Duran, and regained the welterweight crown when the Panamanian surrendered.



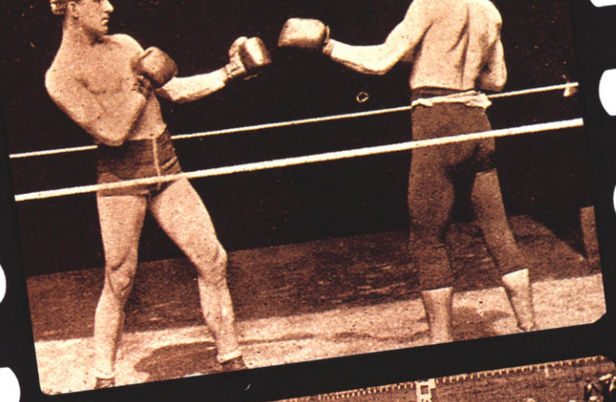
Sugar Ray's most satisfying win was an upset split decision over defending middleweight king Marvin Hagler. It was Hagler's first loss in 11 years.

Toward the end of his career, Leonard's balance wavered, and he suffered a handful of knockdowns, including this one against light heavyweight champion Donny Lalonde. "I was mad when I went down," he recalled.



SUGAR RAY ROBINSON

Welterweight Champion
Five-Time Middleweight Champion
Career: 1940-1965



Top: The first boxing match ever filmed was an exhibition between heavyweight champion Jim Corbett (left) and Peter Courtney, on September 7, 1894, in Orange, New Jersey. Middle: To prevent race riots, films of the Jack Johnson-Jim Jeffries title bout were banned throughout the South, as well as most major northern cities. Jeffries was floored in the 15th and final round. Bottom: After Jack Johnson was dethroned—in front of the cameras—by Jess Willard, on April 5, 1915, in Havana, Cuba, boxing films were banned by federal law. Willard is shown firing the kayo blow.

Real Life Interferes With Reel Life

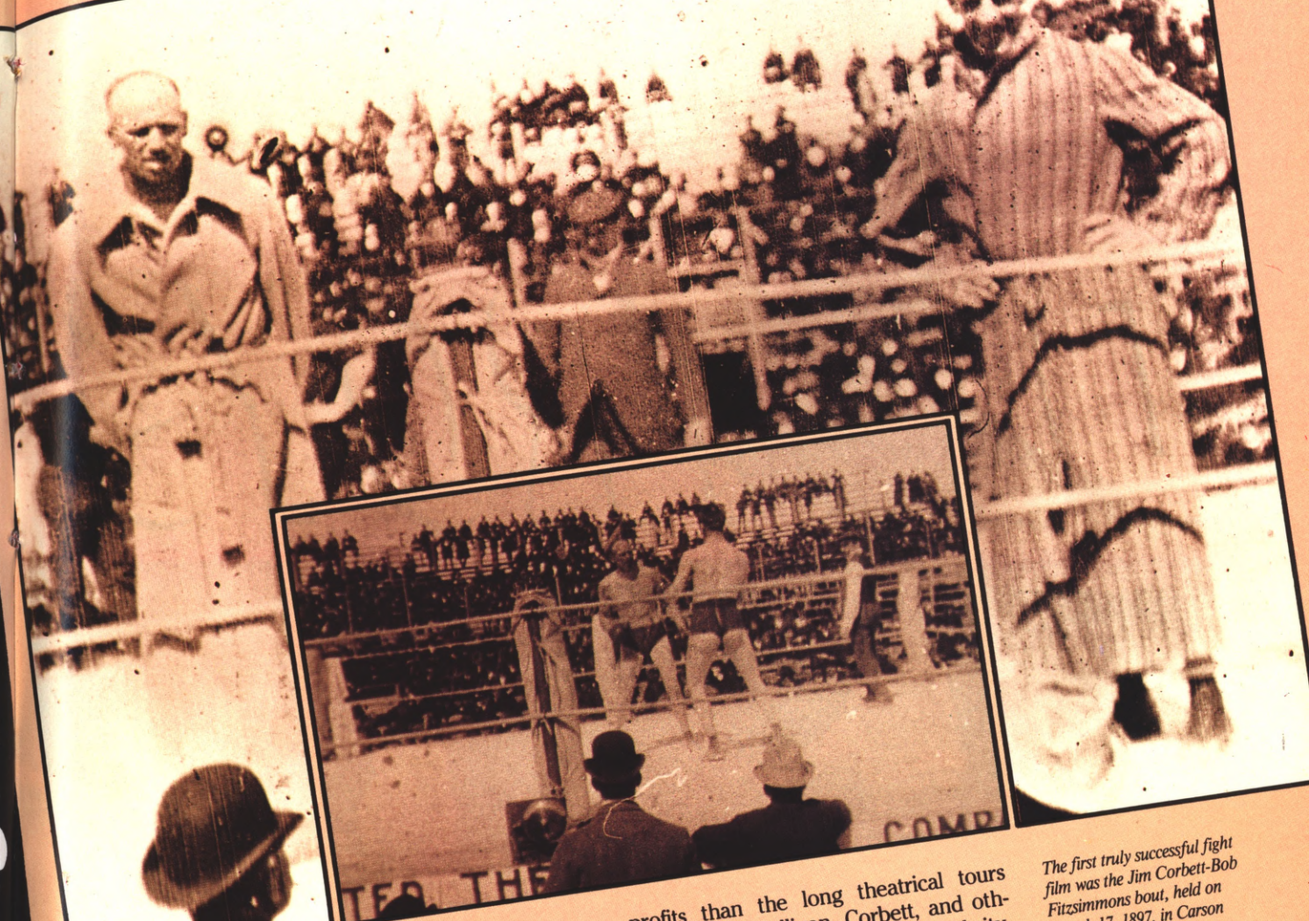
THE 60-YEAR BATTLE TO LEGALIZE FIGHT FILMS

By Dan Streible

Hollywood has always had a fascinating relationship with boxing: Witness Jack Dempsey marrying movie star Estelle Taylor, heavyweight-turned-actor Victor McLaglen winning the Oscar, and the entire movie genre exploring the washed-up prizefighter as anti-hero, from John Garfield's *Body And Soul* to Sylvester Stallone's *Rocky* revivals. But before there even was a Hollywood, the fight game played a central role in the American film industry.

From the time of the Edison Company's first experiments with motion pictures in Thomas Alva's New Jersey laboratory to the rise of the feature film industry in Southern California 20 years later, fight films reigned as the medium's most lucrative and controversial offerings. Between 1894 and 1915, promoters and producers paraded hundreds of prizefight films before the American public, whose reactions ranged from celebration to moral outrage.

While boxing grew in popularity during the teens, many outside the ring feared the influence of those seemingly



magical movies. Just as moviegoing was becoming America's favorite form of entertainment, the powers that be tried to sever the ties between films and fights. From 1912 to 1940, the trafficking of such films was outlawed by an act of Congress. Why this strange stature?

As filmmakers began to explore the possibilities of their new technology in the 1890s, the first popular peep-show subjects were dancing girls and sparring pugs. Film of champion Jim Corbett's six rounds with Pete Courtney in 1894, staged for the Edison kinetoscope, was among the most widely seen among early motion picture audiences. Dozens of lesser boxing films followed in imitation of Corbett's successful posings.

When it was announced that Corbett would defend his belt against former middleweight champion Bob Fitzsimmons, savvy boxing promoters sought to exploit the fighters' fame with motion pictures, a much easier route to profits than the long theatrical tours that John L. Sullivan, Corbett, and others used to cash in on their celebrity. With prize fighting being banned by law in many states, attempts to film the Corbett-Fitzsimmons fight were frustrated at every turn. Finally, Dan A. Stuart, a Texas gambler, entrepreneur, and carpetbagger, seized the opportunity. Teaming with cameraman Enoch Rector, he signed the two heavyweights to a contract that included rights to film and exhibit their long-awaited match. After a photographic fiasco at the legendary one-round Fitzsimmons-Maher bout in 1895, Stuart and Rector built an elaborate three-camera platform for their Veriscope. On St. Patrick's Day, 1897, 11,000 feet of film successfully recorded the bout. Fitz' solar plexus punch could be replayed around the world.

But even though projected motion pictures were scarcely a year old, proponents of film censorship were al-

(Continued on page 61)

The first truly successful fight film was the Jim Corbett-Bob Fitzsimmons bout, held on March 17, 1897, in Carson City, Nevada. Fitzsimmons paralyzed Corbett with his famous solar plexus punch. The photos, taken from the film, show Fitz (left) and Corbett being introduced, and Fitz about to deliver the 14th-round kayo blow (inset).

TERRY NORRIS DESTROYS

MELDRICK TAYLOR

By Robert Cassidy

Will He Soon Be Boxing's Number-One Fighter?

There's something noble about fighters who climb into the ring, get the job done, quietly climb back out, and then hibernate until their next fight. Anyone come to mind? How about WBC super welterweight champion Terry Norris?

There's also something boring about noble fighters. Again, Terry Norris comes to mind.

Norris just might be the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world. Yet he may never become a superstar. In an era in which talent counts only slightly more than charisma, Norris finds himself deficient in the latter, but extremely proficent in dispensing the leather. Away from the ring, he is a genuinely nice guy, a humble man in a sport that has produced a bundle of braggarts. But it is often the loudmouths who intrigue the public and gain notoriety. Can Norris make his clean image work?

"I think so," said his manager, Joe Sayatovich. "I think that's very important in the public's perception of him. And after each title defense, there's been more interest in him."

Perhaps the only things colorful about Norris are the messages artfully scripted into his hair. He'll probably never get a Nike endorsement, and he's yet to grace the cover of *Sports Illustrated*. But there's still plenty of time

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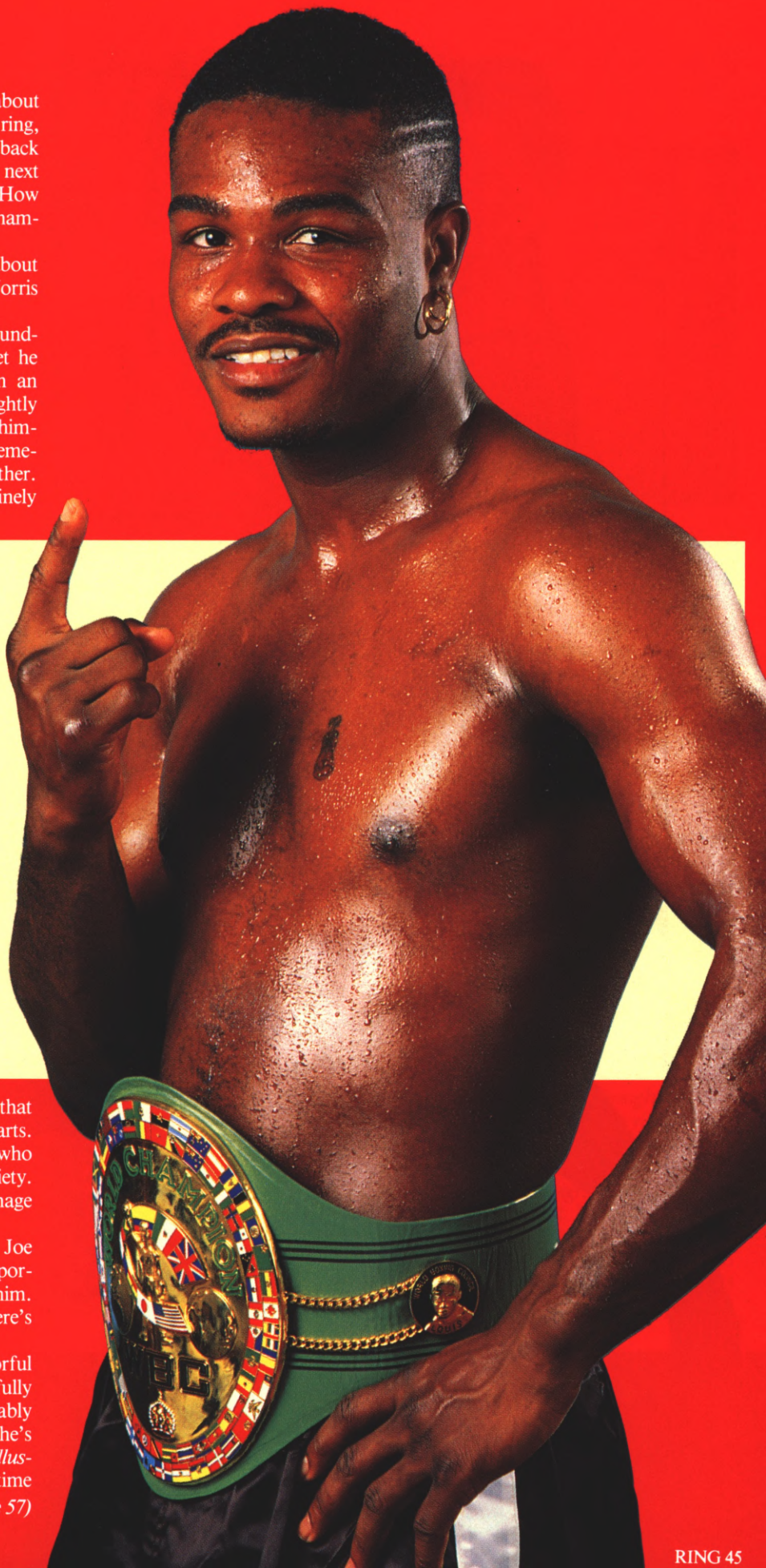
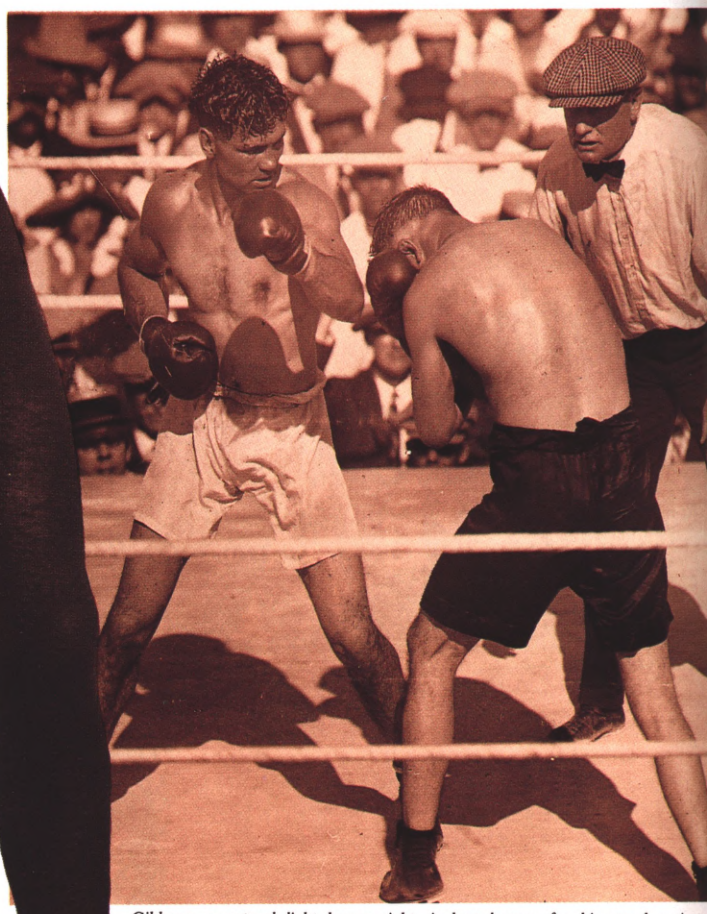


HEAVYWEIGHT

TOMMY GIBBONS



Gibbons, a natural light heavyweight, is best known for his stand against champion Jack Dempsey in July 1923. He lasted the 15-round distance.

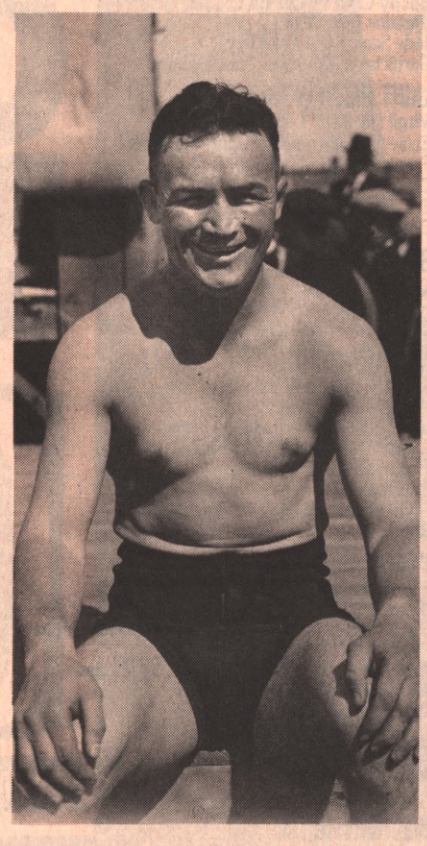
The Toughest Fighter Dempsey Ever Faced

On November 19, 1960, a retired sheriff died at the age of 69 in St. Paul, Minnesota. The only thing remarkable about his political career was that he had been elected six consecutive times, for a total of 24 years in office. For 10 years before his first term, he had been a successful insurance salesman. Although listed as one of Minnesota's 100 most prominent citizens, there seemed little reason for his death to draw nationwide attention.

In cities across the U.S., newspapermen scuttled off to news morgues and libraries in search of yellowed clips. Writers around the world sat down to hack out biographies. They dug up remote facts. (The old man had been the father of nine children, and the stepfather of three more; he had had 22 grandchildren). But why was this important to anyone outside the Minneapolis-St. Paul area?

For his efforts on behalf of the Roman Catholic Church, the former sheriff had been presented with a medal by Pope Pius XII. He had been elected to Minnesota's Sports Hall of Fame, and early in 1960 he had been honored at a testimonial dinner that was attended by more than 1,500.

Above: Gibbons in December 1958, one week before his retirement after 24 years as the sheriff of Ramsey County. Below: In a photo taken in the days leading to his challenge of Dempsey, Gibbons seems relaxed.



The evidence began to pile up. The cub reporters and the obit men, the researchers and the librarians who were quickly sorting out the facts, gradually became aware that they were studying an exceptional career. In the days ahead, they would see their work on the front pages of big city papers all over the country.

Quoted most often was the passage from Hugh Fullerton's article published in the *Chicago Tribune* almost 40 years before:

"Shelby, Montana, July 4, 1923—Jack Dempsey retained the world championship today after one of the greatest heavyweight battles in history, while feathered Indians, kilted Scots, cowboys, and the sports of America cheered his defeated foe. For 15 rounds Tom Gibbons, the St. Paul battler, took everything that could be handed him, and, although he was groggy, hanging on, and trying desperately to last through to the finish, he was the hero of Shelby's great day."

That single paragraph explained so much. It told of Tommy Gibbons' great moment, about how he held Jack Dempsey to a 15-round decision when everybody thought he would

(Continued on page 58)

Summary

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Riddick Bowe KO 5 Bigfoot Martin
Lennox Lewis KO 3 Derek Williams
Tony Tucker KO 6 Manny Contreras
Tony Tucker KO 2 Mike Faulkner
Tommy Morrison KO 3 Kimmuel Odum
Francesco Damiani KO 1 Michael Greer
Bonecrusher Smith KO 7 Danny Wofford
Frank Bruno KO 2 Jose Ribalta
Phillip Jackson KO 3 Everett Mayo
Alex Garcia KO 6 Bobby Crabtree
Michael Dokes KO 3 Smiley Sutton
Michael Dokes KO 5 Percell Davis
Tyrell Biggs KO 1 Charlie Woolard
Alexandre Zolkin KO 10 Rickey Parkey
Adilson Rodrigues W 12 Juan Diaz
Mike Evans KO 2 George Harris
Lionel Butler W Disq. 4 Dave Dixon
Henry Tillman KO 6 Young Joe Louis
Frankie Swindell KO 6 Paul Johnson
Joel Humm KO 2 Dr. Hackie Reitman

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Bobby Czyz W 12 Don Lalonde
(Retains WBA Title)
Jade Scott KO 4 Pat Alley
Curtis Isaac KO 7 Terrence Holmes

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Virgil Hill KO 4 Lotte Mwale
Ernie Magdaleno KO 8 James Kinchen
Frank Liles KO 1 Joaquin Felix
Crawford Ashley KO 8 Glazz Campbell
Eric Nicoletta KO 8 Ed Mack
David Vedder KO 8 Ramzi Hassan

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Chris Eubank KO 3 John Jarvis
Henry Wharton KO 8 Rod Carr
Tarmo Uusivirta W 8 Shannon Landberg

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Reggie Johnson W 12 Steve Collins
(Wins Vacant WBA Title)
Lamar Parks KO 10 Percy Harris
Laurent Boudouani KO 3 Rick Haynes
Thomas Tate W 10 Danny Perez
Randy Williams KO 2 Rocky McCollum
Ulysses Boulware KO 3 Jaime Montano
Ruben Cabral KO 2 Jose Raies

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Terry Norris KO 4 Meldrick Taylor
(Retains WBC Title)
Gianfranco Rosi KO 6 Angel Gonzalez Hernandez
(Retains IBF Title)
Julio Cesar Vasquez KO 1 Daniel Dominguez
Jorge Castro KO 6 Ernesto Sena
Verno Phillips KO 2 Jose Saldivia
Chris Pyatt KO 1 James Tapisha
Carl Daniels W 8 Curtis Summitt
Jean-Claude Fontana W 12 Wally Swift
Lloyd Honeyghan W 8 Alfredo Ramirez

WELTERWEIGHTS
Buddy McGirt KO 5 Delfino Marin
(Non-Title Bout)
Buck Smith KO 2 Will Hernandez
Buck Smith KO 6 Sammy Brooks
Yori Boy Campas KO 3 Ultiminio Martinez
Michael Benjamin W 10 Saoul Mamby
Ludovic Proto W 8 Rocky Montoya
Hiroyuki Yoshino KO 4 Masanori Sato
Gary Jacobs W 10 Cirillo Nino
Manuel DeLeon W 10 Clarence Coleman
Tony Swift W 10 Willie Beattie
Larry Barnes W 10 Henry Hughes

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Terrence Alli W 8 Primo Ramos
Livingstone Bramble KO 5 Derek McGuire
Pedro Sanchez KO 2 Michael Powell
Jimmy Paul KO 6 Bernard Gray
Juan Coggi KO 3 Julian Rodriguez
Carlos Gonzalez W 10 Tim Brooks
Hector Lopez W 10 Juan LaPorte
Courtney Hooper KO 5 Tommy Cordova
Donald Stokes KO 2 Benny Dominguez
Mike Evgen W 12 Louie Lomeli
Jose Castro KO 4 Felipe Fuentes
Carl Griffith KO 7 Edgar Castro
Carl Griffith KO 7 Larry Benson
Ricky Meyers W 10 Ray Olivera

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Sharmba Mitchell W 10 Rocky Lockridge
Tony Lopez KO 2 Narcizo Valenzuela
David Sample W 10 Ramon Zavala
David Sample KO 5 Refugio Guerrero
Fidel Avendano KO 7 Pedro de la Cruz
Jeff Mayweather W 10 Rowdy Welch
Sergei Artemiev W 10 Bryant Paden
Chad Broussard KO 1 Verdell Smith
Gussie Nazarov W 12 Iwao Otomo
Paul Nasari W 10 Iwao Otomo

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Bernard Taylor W 12 Eugene Speed
Renato Cornett W 10 Joe Hiyas
Yuji Watanabe KO 3 Oscar Villaverde
Richard Salazar W 10 Pee Wee Parker
Victor Paz W 10 Rodolfo Santos
Michael Armstrong KO 7 John Doherty

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Paul Hodkinson KO 3 Steve Cruz
(Retains WBC Title)
Yung Kyun Park KO 11 Koji Matsumoto
(Retains WBA Title)
Louie Espinoza KO 2 Freddy Santos
Troy Dorsey KO 4 Juan Valenzuela

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Welcome Ncita W 12 Jesus Salud
(Retains IBF Title)
Rudy Zavala W 12 Johnny Vasquez

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Orlando Canizales W 12 Francisco Alvarez
(Retains IBF Title)
Cecilio Espino KO 5 Antonio Ramirez
Happy Lora W 10 Gabriel Bernal

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Rey Paciones W 10 Yosuke Matsuoka
Marco Antonio Barrera W 12 Josefino Suarez

FLYWEIGHTS
Yuri Arbachakov KO 3 Suvatchai Chalermsri
Ysaias Zamudio Tech. Dec. 8 Richark Clarke
Al Kotey W 10 Francisco Montiel
Alberto Jimenez KO 4 Edgar Decenas
Salvatore Fanni W 12 Michele Poddighe

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Michael Carbajal W 10 Jose Luis Velarde
(Non-Title Bout)

STRAWWEIGHTS
Ala Villamor KO 1 Jae Won Kim

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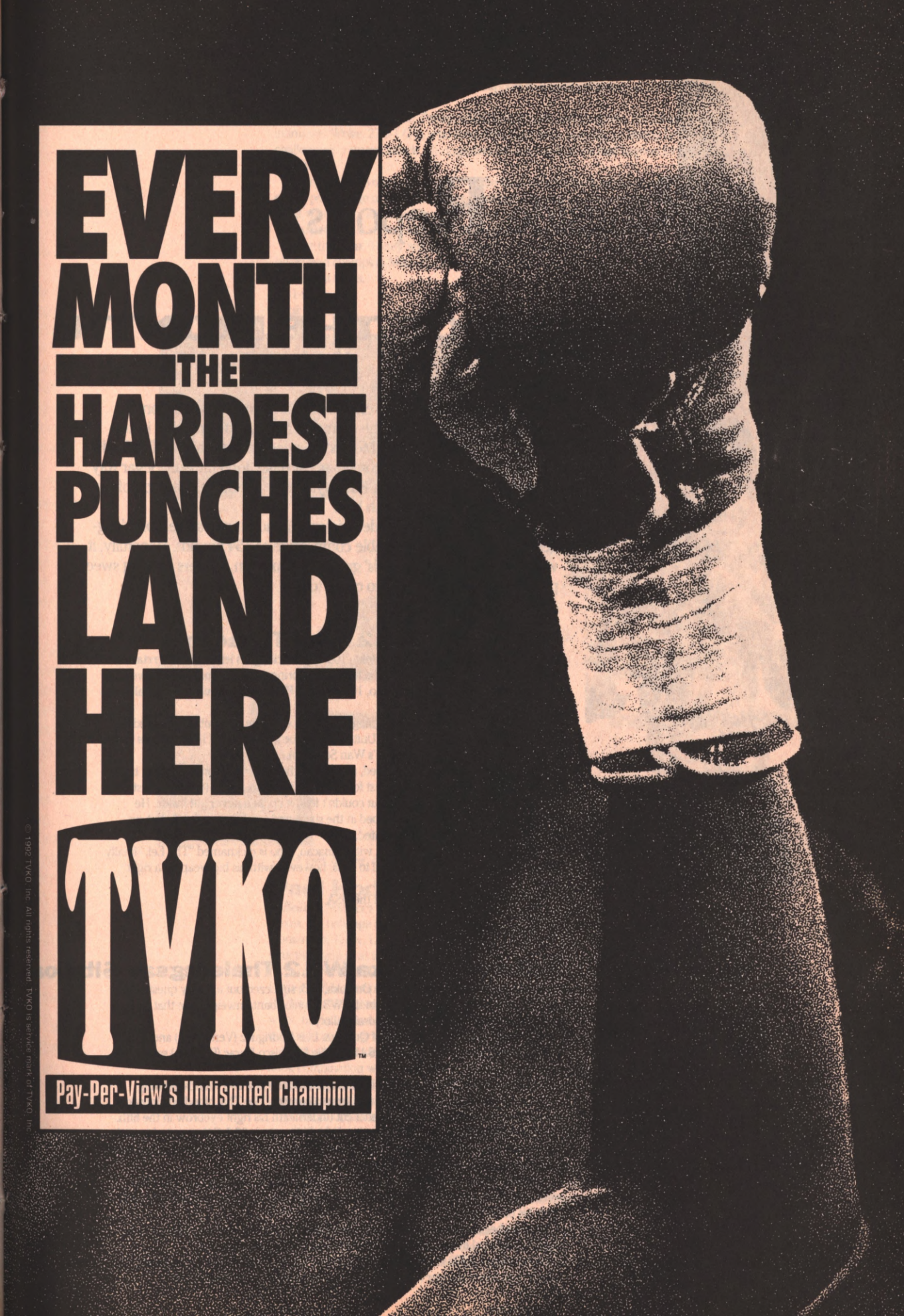

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Ringside Reports

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH

Terry Norris

WBC super welterweight champion Norris may never become boxing's top attraction, but he seems on his way to becoming its top fighter. Until Norris kayoed Meldrick Taylor, he was easy to dismiss. His three biggest victories had come against relics John Mugabi, Sugar Ray Leonard, and Donald Curry. But Taylor was 25 and near the top of his game. And Norris toyed with him.

Still, the startlingly one-sided victory did nothing to solve Norris' biggest problem: a lack of suitable competition at 154 pounds. Hopefully, it will all work out. With Norris' growing reputation, fighters seeking sweet paydays are going to have to come to him.

Hiroki Ioka W 12 Noel Tunacao,

Kitakyushu, Japan—Lanky lefty Ioka, 108, kept sticking his left hand and retained the WBA junior flyweight title for the first time, scoring a unanimous decision over previously undefeated Filipino Tunacao, 106½, at the Kitakyushu Municipal General Gymnasium.

Ioka, who had shocked long-reigning Myung Woo Yuh in December, emerged triumphant by scores of 117-111 (the United States' Joe Cortez), 117-114 (Panama's Orlando Sam), and 119-111 (South Korea's Wan Soo Yuh).

It was a fast-paced, albeit one-sided, affair, with the 5'8" champion outjabbing his 21-year-old foe. Ioka easily took the first four rounds. Tunacao, 17-1-1 (8), landed a strong left-right combination in the fifth, but couldn't follow up, and never got inside. He seemed on the verge of being stopped in the sixth, and again in the eighth, but survived until Ioka, 20-2-1 (9), decelerated.

The last three rounds were slow, with Tunacao, who is nicknamed "The Eel," finally gaining some respect. He continued to miss, however, with his big weapon, a right uppercut.

The referee was Rafael Ramos of the USA.

(3-31-92)

Joe Koizumi

Katsuya Onizuka W 12 Thalerngsak Sithboaba

Tokyo, Japan—Unbeaten localite Onizuka, 115, squeezed out a highly questionable decision over Sithboabay, 115, to win the WBA junior bantamweight title that had been vacated by the legendary Khaosai Galaxy.

All three judges scored in favor of Onizuka: Luis Rodriguez (Venezuela) and Byung Ki Kim (South Korea) both had it 115-114, while Francisco Burac (Panama) saw it 116-114.

The 27-year-old Sithboabay, Thailand, dominated the first five rounds, pinning Onizuka on the ropes and battering him from all angles. The Thai bloodied Onizuka's nose in the second round and opened a cut underneath his right eyebrow in the fifth.

Apparently comfortable with his points lead, Sithboabay, 37-3 (21), resorted to sticking and moving in the sixth. A jabbing duel ensued, and the 22-year-old Onizuka began landing in combination with more frequency.

Onizuka, 19-0 (16), rallied to take the ninth and 10th rounds. The 11th and 12th were extremely close, with the edge to Sithboabay, who was able to effectively pick apart his onrushing foe.

Onizuka became Japan's 31st world champion, but the decision was heavily criticized by the local media, which called Sithboabay "the true champion."

An estimated 9,900 witnessed the fight at the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium. The referee was Steve Smoger (USA), and the promoter was Kyoei Promotions.

(4-10-92)

Joe Koizumi

James Toney W 12 Glenn Wolfe,

Las Vegas, Nevada—IBF middleweight champion Toney, 160, Ann Arbor, Michigan, was a tad above mediocre in registering a unanimous decision over Wolfe, 160, Tampa, Florida. The title fight was the chief support to Foreman-Stewart at the Thomas & Mack Center.

Making his fifth defense, Toney, 29-0-2 (20), fought only in spurts. He failed to hurt or intimidate Wolfe, 27-3-1 (24), who forced the fight from opening to closing bell. But the challenger's pitty-pat attack left ringsiders wondering how he had kayoed 24 previous opponents.

Toney, a 9-1 favorite, spent much of the bout with his back to the ropes. He landed a high percentage of his counters, and managed to pick up the pace in the late rounds. But it was hardly an inspiring performance.

Chuck Giampa scored 117-111, Glen Hamada 119-109, and Doug Tucker 118-110.

Later this year, Toney will likely defend for the second time against former 154- and 160-pound champion Mike McCallum. Last December, they battled to a draw in one of 1991's best fights.

(4-11-92)

Jack Welsh

Toney eyes the big bad Wolfe

Paul Hodkinson KO 3 Steve Cruz,

Belfast, Northern Ireland—The wisdom of installing substitute Cruz, 126, Fort Worth, Texas, to challenge a precocious talent such as WBC featherweight champion Hodkinson, 125¾, Liverpool, England, was clinically exposed in conclusive and destructive fashion at the Maysfield Centre, with just seven minutes having elapsed.

So overwhelmed was Cruz by the prodigious power possessed by "Hoko" that the former WBA champion barely landed a single worthwhile blow. Cruz was a mere shadow of the fighter who produced one of boxing's amazing upsets six years ago, when he dethroned Barry McGuigan. His performance against Hoko was as far removed from that great night as the distance Belfast stands from the Vegas desert.

Making his first defense, Hoko was in a determined mood, and the straight right-left hook combination which felled Cruz midway through round one probably would have dropped any featherweight in the world. Hoko continued to stalk the challenger, whose counters lacked sting.

Although Cruz survived the first two rounds, the pattern confirmed that the result, if ever in doubt, was now inevitable. Hoko would draw a close exactly when he deemed appropriate. That time came 1:05 into round three, when a consummate hook brought Cruz to his knees and broke his spirit. The Texan pulled himself erect by the count of nine, but referee Orlando Barrovechia decided enough was enough.

Afterward, Hoko seemed preoccupied with his marriage, which was scheduled in three weeks.

"My family warned me that if I got bruised or cut up," he said, "I'd be left out of the wedding pictures, so I'm very happy that won't happen."

Hoko's next engagement—in the ring—will likely come against Frenchman Fabrice Benichou.

(4-25-92)

Brian Doogan

Reggie Johnson W 12 Steve Collins,

East Rutherford, New Jersey—A more assertive Johnson, 159, dominated every facet of the bout to win the vacant WBA middleweight title. (Mike McCallum was stripped last year when he opted to fight IBF champion James Toney instead of mandatory challenger Collins, whom he had previously outpointed.) It was the second title try for both fighters.

Collins, 159, Dublin, Ireland, benifited from the crowd's support, though the 6,042 who attended at the Meadowlands Arena filled less than one-third of the house. While the fans were disappointed by the outcome, they were brought to their feet many times by the action. Collins, 21-2 (10), initiated most of the exchanges, but Johnson, a southpaw from Houston, consistently landed the cleaner and harder blows.

The fight was marred in the early rounds by headbutts and low blows, some of them intentional. In round five, both men were penalized by referee Arthur Mercante for hitting low.

After taking two of the first four stanzas, the Texan combined his superior skills with speed and accuracy and won rounds five through 10. Johnson, 31-2-1 (20), slowed the attacking Collins in the ninth and 10th with lead lefts, jabs, and sweeping right hooks. He scored with hard shots in the last 20 seconds of the ninth, snapping the Irishman's head back and driving him into a corner, where Collins barely survived the round.

The judges saw the fight much closer than almost everyone else. Uriel Aguilera (Colombia) and Marcos Torres (Panama) tabbed Johnson the winner by 115-113 and 115-114, respectively. Samuel Conde (Puerto Rico) scored 114 apiece. *The Ring* had Johnson by 116-110.

Johnson will make a voluntary defense before meeting the leading available contender, Lamar Parks, in the fall.

(4-22-92)

Ed Maloney

Johnson gained the upper hand with uppercuts

Yung Kyun Park KO 11 Koji Matsumoto,

Ansan, South Korea—WBA featherweight champion Park, 125½, dropped the southpaw challenger three times and finished him at the 45-second mark of round 11 at the Ansan Olympic Memorial National Arena.

Matsumoto, 10-3-1 (4), tried lateral movement, but the hard-charging Korean champion wore him down. A wicked right dropped the 10th-rated challenger in round two, and after that the Japanese never threatened. Until the finish, Matsumoto simply absorbed all of Park's punches. He fell again in round nine, after which Park, 22-1-1 (13), lost a point for hitting after the bell. In the 11th, referee Julio Cesar Alvarado called a halt when Matsumoto went down for a third time.

It was Park's fourth defense.

(4-25-92)

Joe Koizumi

Welcome Ncita W 12 Jesus Salud,

Treviolo, Italy—IBF junior featherweight champion Ncita, 121, East London, South Africa, retained the crown for the sixth time by scoring a unanimous decision over former WBA titlist Salud, 121, Waianae, Hawaii.

Nelson Vasquez (Puerto Rico) and Ric Bays (United States) both scored 116-112, and Enzo Scala (Italy) saw it 115-113. The referee was Joey Curtis.

The bout featured a bit of a role reversal. Salud, usually an aggressive power-puncher, boxed well over the first couple of rounds, and Ncita, who features quickness and movement, scored well during toe-to-toe exchanges. The difference was that Salud landed one punch at a time, while Ncita followed his jab with combinations.

From the fourth round until the finish, the champion boxed with a swollen and partly closed left eye. Salud was never able to take full advantage, and his late-rounds rally fell short.

(4-18-92) ■

If They Weren't Boxers

(Continued from page 34)

TERRY NORRIS (WBC super welterweight champion): "I wanted to be a major league baseball player and play for the Houston Astros. I even set a few records at Dunbar High School [in Lubbock, Texas]. I batted .417 in my senior year, and was a very good centerfielder until I got into a fight with an opponent who called me a nigger. As I was fighting him, two of his teammates attacked me. So I beat up the three of them and sent them to the hospital. After that, I was kicked out of baseball, and that dream was over."

TOMMY MORRISON (heavyweight contender): "I'd have gone on to college and studied criminal justice administration. I've always been interested in prisons, and I think it would've been a real challenge for me, one that would have required lots of motivation to find out what I was made of."

JOEY GAMACHE (lightweight contender): "I'd have been a mobster. Hell, I'd be robbing everything. They'd call me the Godfather. The King of Sting. And John Gotti would be working for me."

BUDDY McGIRT (WBC welterweight champion): "I would've been an auto mechanic. I like working on cars, especially race cars. As a kid, I went to Hampton Raceway every Sunday. And since then, I've always liked to get down and greasy because it looks like you're working. But these days I have a gentleman's agreement with [manager] Al Certo that I won't work on any cars. Even mine. He's really afraid I might get hurt."

RIDDICK BOWE (heavyweight contender): "I actually thought about a career in drama. I would have pursued it at Morehouse College in Atlanta. I think I can act rather well, and memorizing lines comes pretty easy, as long as there's not too much pressure to do it. Someday you might see me on the big stage."

SCOTTY OLSON (flyweight contender): "Know what I'd be? A vacuum cleaner salesman. I did it for a while a couple years ago, and I liked it. It's not a high-pressure job, and with vacuums selling for what they do, the commissions aren't bad. I liked talking with the customers I sold to. And you know, I just might do it again some day."

DENNIS ANDRIES (former light heavyweight champion): "I would have been a plasterer back in London. I practiced the trade in the '70s, worked a day or two at a time, just enough to get a pair of shoes or a suit. When I needed something, I'd go out and plaster a wall. Then I'd quit a day or two later. I was never lazy, and I was never a thief."

MICHAEL DOKES (former WBA heavyweight champion): "I probably would have been a musician. I play guitar, cornet, and trumpet, all talents I got from my mother, who has been a professional musician for 50 years. Rhythm & blues would've been my thing. I was also interested in being a clothes designer. I've been sewing most of my clothes for years, everything from tailor-made suits to bow ties."

RAY MERCER (heavyweight contender): "My father was a military man, and I grew up on Army bases. Over the years, I met all kinds of people in our travels, and I really enjoyed that aspect of military life. Eventually, I joined the Army, and if I hadn't become a fighter, I would have remained in the military. It offered me security and comfort, as well as the opportunity to travel anywhere."

LENNOX LEWIS (heavyweight contender): "I thought about getting into counseling. I'm a good listener, and I've found over the years that people will come to me with their problems. People of all ages, in fact. And I find if you listen to what they have to say, it makes a difference to them."

GREG HAUGEN: (junior welterweight contender): "I would've gone into sheet metal heating. It's sort of a family business with us, and I learned how to do it when I was 14. There's good money in it. A man can make a good living. But it's dangerous. It can cut the hell out of your hands, and I know guys who have fewer than 10 fingers because they weren't careful."

TROY DORSEY: (featherweight contender): "Given the fact that I've owned a karate school, I probably would have stayed in that business. But long before karate, I always liked working with animals. There was a time that I thought of becoming a veterinarian or an animal trainer. I just love animals, all types. You have to when you own a pet boa constrictor."

AL COLE (cruiserweight contender): "My plan was to finish college at Central Texas University and become an accountant. I really love math. So I took accounting courses, but I only finished nine credits before I got involved with boxing. Accounting, from what I hear, is a good future. But I'm finding out that it's pretty boring stuff. Maybe it's better I'm a boxer."

MICHAEL CARBAJAL (IBF junior flyweight champion): "I've wanted to get involved in counseling all my life. It's something I'm looking forward to doing on a full-time basis after my boxing career. I work with juveniles now, and I enjoy it. I know what it's like growing up these days, and all the temptations that are out there for kids. Now that I'm a world champion, I think I make a good role model, and the kids listen to me."

JAMES WARRING (IBF cruiserweight champion): "I wanted to be a professional football player. In fact, I had a tryout with the Raiders in 1978, but I got cut. I'm very athletic, so I got into kickboxing. Won world championships, too. If I wasn't a fighter, I think I'd get a lot of job satisfaction from teaching kickboxing, especially to people in their late-30s and early-40s. I like it when a man or woman comes in and doesn't know anything about the sport, and I can show them all about it. To see them improve gives me a natural high." ■

Sugar Ray Leonard

(Continued from page 39)

He had far more talent that I did at the time. No question. My desire and my perseverance won for me. I was tired in that fight, I mean *really* tired. I just kept trying and trying. I missed more punches than I landed, and after the fight, I was so exhausted, so battered. I couldn't attend any party, so I just sat in a tub of hot water in my suite. That was the wrong thing to do. It dehydrated me and I had to go to the hospital.

SUGAR RAY WHO?

Montreal was the site of Leonard's unforgettable Olympic triumph, but,

(Continued on page 54)

Sugar Ray Leonard

(Continued from page 53)

oddly, when he returned there four years later for the first Duran fight, he felt like an outcast. The locals had embraced Duran, a turn of events that Leonard's manager, Mike Trainer, believes was sparked by Duran's greeting the locals in French the moment he stepped off the plane.

(Sarcastically) He probably said, "Oui, oui," and they went crazy. Actually, the reaction to him and me took me for an emotional ride, it really did. And I felt there were some racial overtones involved. He wasn't white, but he was lighter than I was. Despite all that, if someone says, "Montreal," I think, *Beautiful place. The Olympics. Beautiful.*

FEELIN' 7UP

Leonard's popularity exploded in 1980, and it was then that he gave new meaning to the words pop icon. Between their two bad-blood meetings, Leonard and Duran filmed a TV commercial for 7Up. As the jingle "Feelin' 7Up" played in the background, pint-sized pugilists Ray Leonard Jr. and Roberto Duran Jr. playfully duked it out while their dads looked on. It was a great idea, but because it was scheduled at such an awkward time, Leonard entered the shoot wondering if Duran was going to behave himself or act like a soda jerk.

The most uncomfortable thing in the world to do. *Ugh.* Duran didn't want to do this. He was balking. He was very upset. And I said to his interpreter, "Listen, explain to Duran that this is easy money." He saw the light and agreed to do it, but then it was rumored that he was going to do something physical when we were shooting. I sent word back that if he did anything out of line with my kid there, I would match him. I said, "Trust me, I *will* match him." Nothing happened. It was like Duran wasn't even there. He was just going through the motions. But I was watching him closely the whole time.

ANGEL(O) IN THE CORNER

Through the years, Leonard, like Muhammad Ali before him, has been stingy with his praise of Angelo Dundee. With time to reflect on the work of the man who was in his corner for his first 35 bouts, might Sugar be a little more generous with his compliments?

The plus for Angelo is that he knew how to communicate with the fighter. There was a rapport, an open line of communication without yelling. I don't respect yelling. I wouldn't tolerate it. I'm not a piece of meat. I'm the employer, so you *talk* to me.

Angelo and I sent signals back and forth. In the Hagler fight, it was me flurrying and winning the last minute of the rounds, but it was Angelo's guidance that kept me moving. He knew that if I stayed on the ropes and Hagler punched, even if he wasn't hurting me, it would look like he was scoring points. Angelo was a big help. But I was the strategist. Always.

BIG FUN ON THE BAYOU

Where were you when Duran quit in the eighth round of the rematch in New Orleans? For your sake, we hope it wasn't in an expensive seat.

You want to talk about strategies and tactics? The one who employed this was my brother, Roger. He told me, "The best way to beat Duran is to frustrate the hell out of him." When I started to taunt Duran, I knew I was in total command because I was getting away with it. I think what demoralized him was the level of laughter from the crowd. People got to understand something about the mental stability of a fighter. Some fighters crack under pressure and some fighters crack under humiliation. Duran was humiliated. I mean, this man was considered a legend. When some guy hit him with a sucker punch, his mentality forced him to quit.

When he quit, at first I thought it was a trick. I considered Duran one of the smartest guys out there, and I thought he was pulling something. When I went back to the dressing room, I was still kind of mystified by it. It didn't really sink in until I got home and watched the tape myself. Right at the precise moment he quit, he reminded me of a suicide victim. After he leaps off the bridge, he realizes there's a better way out. But it's too late. Duran leaped without thinking about the impact.

VANITY FAIR

When we were saying goodbye in Leonard's driveway, a female companion drove up and got out of the car. Leonard, who made sure to have makeup applied to his face before we shot pictures of him, insisted that we take a photo of them together. Though his lady was assured that she looked fabulous, she complained to The Sweet One, "That's not fair. You have makeup on and I don't."

"Hey," a smiling Leonard reminded her, "I'm ***Ray.****"*

(Laughing) My face is something I like to keep in place. That vanity has always been with me. I think it's with everyone, but especially with me because of my platform of being a champion who did commercials. When people talk about fighters, they always say, "He's got the most potent left hook in the business." You never hear, "The guy could be in *GQ*." I've always wanted to be different, not perceived as the stereotype fighter: cauliflower ears, slurring speech, rough-and-tough looking.

Cuts always bothered me after the fight. They bothered me when I would look in the mirror and see a scar here, a cut there. But I think my face speaks for itself. I've been boxing for 21 years. That's a lot of years, a lot of trauma, a lot of punches. And I still look okay.

WHEN THE BALD BAWLED

Leonard considers his greatest accomplishment to be the night in April 1987, when, as a 4-1 underdog, he upset middleweight king Marvin Hagler. The defeat was devastating to Hagler, who hadn't lost in 11 years. Marvelous still speaks bitterly of it, insisting that he was robbed by the judges. Does he really believe what he says?

Marvin doesn't believe that. But I'll tell you what: He knows that if he doesn't say it, no one will. It's all denial. I beat Hagler. That fight is something he has to live with for the rest of his life.

I saw Marvin about two years ago. I walked up to Goody and Pat [Petronelli, his handlers] and said, "How ya doin'?" I was going to embrace Marvin, and he just moved away. I said to myself, "That son of a bitch." Later on, I received an award, and I said some nice things about Marvin. When I sat back down, he said, "Hey, man, thanks for the nice words." I don't think from a personal standpoint he hates me, but his title was his ID card. He'll always remember that I took it away.

I'm surprised Marvin's head is still messed up. I lost my last fight, got the crap beat out of me, and it doesn't bother me. Life goes on. Marvin should realize his accomplishments are solid. Once a retired athlete appreciates what he's done, he makes peace and is a lot happier.

HYPE, HYPE, HOORAY!

Leonard laughed hysterically while looking at pictures of him and Hearns wearing Army helmets and riding steers during the promotional tour leading up to their 1989 rematch. Was there ever a time when Sugar thought the hype had gone too far?

Yeah. When they put those damn helmets on us. I looked at it as tongue-in-cheek. I knew my career was coming to an end, and it was a time when I was more convinced of my opposition's chances than the press was. I had to build the event. Hell, I felt like a politician.

It was even hard to motivate myself. I knew I was in for a long haul and a tough fight whenever I couldn't get up mentally. I said Donny Lalonde was a real jerk because I was trying to get fired up. But that didn't work because it was never a matter of liking or disliking a guy that got me pumped. It was defying the odds. It's always been that way.

LA-LACKADAISICAL, THEN LA-LIGHTS OUT

Leonard's first post-Hagler outing, and the first of four bouts that would expose him as merely a Sugar substitute, was a November 1988 challenge of WBC light heavyweight king Don Lalonde. A lethargic Leonard was decked in round four. Hurt again, he exploded in the ninth round with a fury reminiscent of round 13 of the first Hearns showdown. He viciously dropped Lalonde twice and stopped him at the 2:30 mark.

I was mad when I went down. I didn't get knocked down by a clean blow, it was a punch to the back of my head. What that tells me is I was getting to a point where my equilibrium was not really stable. I was not really concentrating by then. I was looking to see if my ex-wife was at ringside—those kinds of things. I vividly recall being in the dressing room and saying, "Mike [Trainer], how's the house?" I never did that before.

Lalonde hurt me worse when I was standing than when I was down. The only people who ever hurt me with a body shot were Lalonde and Terry Norris. After the uppercut, I just said, "No more." When I went after Lalonde, I just wanted to get it over with.

THIS MAGIC MOMENT

Is everything blurry from flurry to flurry? Can a fighter with 39 career

(Continued on page 56)

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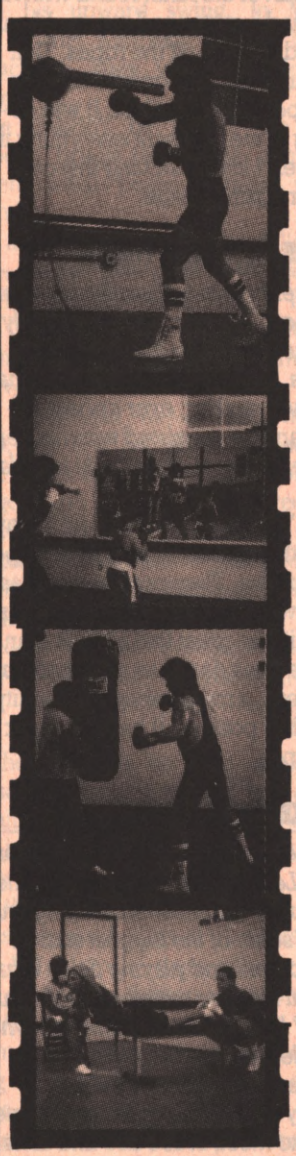

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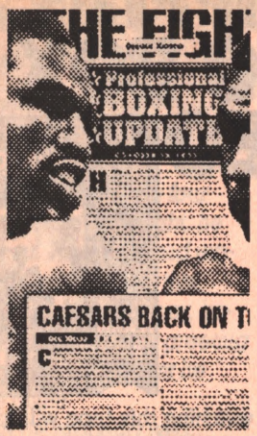

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Sugar Ray Leonard

(Continued from page 55)

bouts remember a single favorite moment in his career?

That part of the ninth round with Hagler. He had just stunned me, and I came back and flurried off the ropes. That was everything. It showed I had the staying power to beat him. It was everything to me. It meant everything in my career. I love watching that over and over again on tape.

IMAGE IS . . . EVERYTHING?

In recent years, Leonard has become more socially conscious, particularly about the role of the black man in America. We wondered how his image as the ever-smiling, ever-upbeat All-American Boy coexisted with his personal belief that all is not right in today's society.

I didn't endorse myself. I didn't say, *"This* is the image." That was what people saw in me. They portrayed me as the guy with the magnetic smile. I just thought it was great that a black man could be considered an all-American sports hero, a marketable commodity. It was a big positive. It helped break stereotypes.

"I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET . . . "

As one of the world's premier sports celebs, Leonard has gotten to rub the shoulders of his $1,000 suits up against those of some of the biggest stars of stage, screen, and playing field. What does that mean to someone so rich and famous? Has he ever met anyone who has made ***him*** *tongue-tied?*

I've never been really thrilled to meet any celebrities because the ones I wanted to meet, Bruce Lee and Elvis Presley, have long passed away. Bruce Lee was my idol. I've always been fascinated with martial arts. And I think Elvis was just incredible as an entertainer. I admire a lot of people, but except for those two, nobody has ever made me say "Wow!"

A "TERRIBLE" FINISH

Leonard's last bout, a February 1991 decision loss to "Terrible" Terry Norris at Madison Square Garden, unfolded exactly the way he swore it never would. He thought he could do what Ali, Robinson, and all the rest could not: outpoint Father Time.

I had a fear of losing in the Terry Norris fight. No, it wasn't a fear of losing as much as a fear of not being Sugar Ray Leonard. Talk, criticism, negative innuendos, they would create a stimulus for me because I hate being talked about. But when I couldn't turn that switch on in the Norris fight, it was very frightening. I was in one gear and that was it.

I retired many times, but it was kind of spectacular coming back. So I kept pushing to the limit. I never thought it would catch up with me. People say, "Ray should have quit after the Hagler fight." But if I stayed retired the first time, I never would have fought Hagler. But what happened to me was inevitable. I couldn't see it then, but I see it now.

AND HE LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER?

As he settles into retirement, the introspective Leonard finds the hours are in abundance. That means more time for thinking about and reflecting on his life, and examining his own mortality, something that has always held a bizarre fascination for him.

I used to think about death all the time. *All* the time, but I never said anything because everybody thought I was some whacko. I always think about how fragile life is. Tomorrow is not promised to you. All of a sudden, the doctor calls you and says you have cancer. I realize that, and that's why I enjoy myself far more now than I ever did before.

I do miss phases of my life. I miss the period when I was about to fight Hearns the first time around, that anticipation. I miss the camaraderie in the gym, and the press conferences, and manipulating people. They were wonderful things that happened because of who I was back then.

I'd never come back. I love myself more than I ever have before. I take care of myself more than ever before. I enjoy what I have amassed here. I enjoy my kids a lot better. I fell in love with my personal computer. I don't need boxing now. I really don't. ■

Bobby Czyz

(Continued from page 21)

"Unquestionably I'm better now than I was as a middleweight and a light heavyweight," he said. "It's taken me years, but I finally learned how to fight and stay relaxed during flurries, when a guy's throwing 60-mile-per-hour

punches from only two feet away. I've finally learned to recognize each punch, slip it, and counter it. It all came to me during my 10-month retirement a couple of years ago."

After a June 1989 stoppage loss to IBF 175-pound champion Prince Charles Williams, Czyz quit boxing at age 27. The way he figured it, 39 fights was enough for anyone. He treated himself to surgery for a deviated septum, and underwent acupuncture for a back ailment. When it was all over, he could breathe and bend, and boxing didn't seem so bad after all.

"For the first time in my life, I had the time to look back and see the things I should've done, but didn't do in my career," Czyz recalled. "I'd been too impetuous, too hard-headed, I guess. I realized I should have countered more in fights, and I shouldn't have charged after opponents like I did. Then Tommy Parks [Czyz' longtime trainer] convinced me that I still had more boxing left in me. He said I had a good power jab and that if I stuck with it, I'd be successful. So I came back, and, as usual, Tommy was right."

From the outset, Czyz stalked Lalonde, 35-4 (30), and thumped his jab into the Canadian's face. One minute into the fight, he caught Lalonde with a counter hook to the chin. The challenger stumbled backward and fell.

"I didn't see the left hook coming at all," Lalonde said afterward. "I just got caught."

Sensing an early knockout, Czyz charged forward.

"I wanted to get Donny out of there, and I got a little too anxious," he said. "But Tommy calmed me down."

Parks realized that Lalonde would be difficult to kayo, so he advised Czyz to simply box. If a knockout came, fine. But a win by decision would be welcomed, too.

Despite Lalonde's eight-inch reach advantage, Czyz proceeded to give a boxing lesson. For his part, Lalonde did very little. As always, he fought awkwardly. But his once-powerful right hand had no *oomph*. (He later claimed that he hurt it early in the fight, though he wasn't sure in what round.) And his pawing jab hardly disturbed Czyz. His only moment came in the opening moments of round 12, when he spun Czyz' head with a right cross. But that was about it.

Lalonde said he had underestimated Czyz' strength. He expected the champion to tire by the middle rounds, as he had against Williams. That, however, didn't happen. A rigorous training program and a healthy diet have changed Czyz' body for the better. He's gone the 12-round distance in his last three fights, and finished strongly in each.

Czyz' personal life has also contributed to his upward swing. In March 1990, he met Kimberly Ross, a television actress. They were married last October.

"Life couldn't be better," he said. "Kimberly brings to my life a mental and emotional peace I have never known."

As a teenager, Czyz was billed as "white, bright, and polite." He quickly rose through the middleweight ranks, but a November 1982 loss to Mustafa Hamsho destroyed his momentum, and he never fought for the title.

He resurfaced as a light heavyweight, but first had to overcome the suicide of his father and a split from his manager, Lou Duva. He captured the IBF crown in 1986, and made three successful defenses before losing for the first time to Williams. Subsequent losses to Williams, Dennis Andries, and Virgil Hill led to a brief retirement. He returned in 1990, and dethroned cruiserweight champion Robert Daniels in March 1991.

As he considers his next opponent, Czyz sounds very much like he's come to realize that for a veteran, intelligence is a far more valuable asset than emotion.

"In the past, I wanted to fight only the best," he said. "Out of 45 fights, I've fought 21 guys who were either champions or top-10 fighters. Wanting to fight the top guys was a pride thing with me. But now I have to look at boxing as a business. Who will make me the most money?"

A fight with IBF super middleweight champion Iran Barkley is one possibility. So is a defense against Alfred "Ice" Cole, the mandatory contender of the WBA and IBF.

"I'd take him to school," Czyz said. "I'd *love* that fight."

These days, Czyz loves everything about boxing. The price for peace was considerable. Now it's payback time. ■

Norris-Taylor

(Continued from page 45)

for all that; he's only 25.

In May, Norris enhanced his stature by thrashing WBA welterweight champion Meldrick Taylor, who, until May, was one of the five best pound-for-pound fighters in the world. Norris, an 8-5 favorite, entered the ring with the word "knockout" shaved into his head, and proceeded to score one. The odds aside, few ringsiders thought he'd dispatch Taylor with such ease.

"We said before the fight that it was two great, young champions fighting," said Taylor's promoter, Dan Duva. "And in order to be a superstar, you need a signature fight. Tonight was Terry Norris' signature fight."

Any doubts surrounding Norris' wins over a pair of aged former champions, Sugar Ray Leonard and Donald Curry, were wiped away. Norris dominated Taylor, and dropped down in weight to do so.

Norris-Taylor represented a rare and welcomed occasion: two young champions trying to distance themselves from a pack of mediocre world champions. It was made possible only after Norris, a 154-pounder, agreed to weigh no more than 150½ for the fight. It initially appeared that Taylor would benefit by the weight agreement. It turned out that both men weighed in at 149, but when the bell rang, it was obvious that Norris was *still* bigger and stronger.

"There was no problem with the weight at all," said Sayatovich. "People forget that when we fought Leonard, Terry weighed 150¾."

Norris, 32-3 (18), began to take control in round two. His speed equaled that of Taylor's, and his chopping right seemed to rattle the welterweight every time it landed.

"He fought somewhat of a foolish fight," said Norris, getting about as derisive as he allows himself to be. "He stood right there in front of me. He didn't have the power to keep me off him."

To his credit, Taylor fought gamely. He never stopped winging his hook, and he got up from both knockdowns prepared to engage in further combat. Perhaps he should have danced away, or desperately held on, rather than confront Norris. But fighters from Philadelphia aren't made that way.

The fight opened with Taylor, 29-2-1 (15), carrying the action. He pressured Norris and ripped hooks to the champion's midsection. Norris appeared to be jittery, and missed often with his right. Two of the three judges awarded Taylor the first round. But that would

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Norris-Taylor

(Continued from page 57)

be his sole highlight.

"Sometimes in life things don't go according to plan," he said afterward, his voice thick with emotion. "I'm used to winning all my fights. I'm used to feeling triumphant."

Both fighters came out winging in round four. Taylor started by landing a hard overhand right that Norris later admitted wobbled him. They continued to trade punches, and then a right stunned Taylor, and another chopping right sent him stumbling forward and to the canvas. He was up at the count of four, but his legs seemed paralyzed. Norris kept the pressure on, and Taylor hooked back. In one exchange, he caught the champion flush, but it served only to accelerate the ending. Norris landed two more hard rights, and Taylor fell for the second time. He again reached his feet quickly. Norris wasted no time, however, in resuming his attack. Referee Mills Lane stopped the bout with five seconds left in the round. (It was Taylor's second heartbreaking defeat in two years; leading on points, he was stopped by Julio Cesar Chavez with two seconds left in their March 1990 junior welterweight title-unification fight.)

At the postfight press conference, Norris refrained from criticizing Taylor, choosing instead to restore dignity to the fighter he had just humiliated.

"He's the best fighter I fought so far, besides Sugar Ray Leonard," Norris said. "He's the best, the fastest, and the youngest. None of them had what Meldrick Taylor had."

A born-again Christian, Norris is a pleasant change of pace. He is clearly the sport's hottest fighter, winning 11 straight bouts since getting stopped by then-WBA junior middleweight king Julian Jackson in 1989. In the process, he's retired John Mugabi, Leonard, and Curry, stopped the previously unbeaten Carl Daniels, and added Taylor to his list of victims. But like heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield, it's not likely that he'll ever appeal to the masses.

"I just don't know if he has it," said Madison Square Garden matchmaker Bobby Goodman, who co-promoted Norris' fight against Leonard. "He certainly has the ability, but he just hasn't captured everyone's imagination. I don't know what Norris will have to do to get over."

The only thing he can do is keep winning. So for now, at least, he'll go back into hibernation. Six days of every week, Norris lives at Sayatovich's training complex in Campo, California. After fighting, he's allowed to leave for a maximum of three weeks, which he spends with his wife and son. Then it's back to camp.

With the exception of WBA champion Vinny Pazienza, the junior middleweight division offers few appealing opponents. But Norris is beginning to find that fighters from other weight classes will seek him out. A rematch with WBC middleweight king Jackson would be a natural. So would fights against IBF 160-pound champion James Toney and former two-division titlist Mike McCallum.

"I'd love to see Terry fight the Toney-McCallum winner," said Duva, who, along with Dan Goossen, is promoting Norris. He added that Norris vs. Jackson, Chavez, or Buddy McGirt would all be "terrific fights."

Norris' next opponent will likely be WBC welterweight champion McGirt, perhaps this fall. HBO has expressed its interest to both camps, and few fighters walk away from HBO money.

Norris is in a position to become the sport's premier fighter. At 25, he'll probably outlast Chavez, Holyfield, and Pernell Whitaker. Even if he keeps winning, though, there is no guarantee that he will be embraced by the public, the way Leonard and George Foreman were.

"I feel like, now, I'm the best fighter in the world," said Norris. "I think I should get the respect I deserve."

After the fight, the 25-year-old Taylor offered some unique insight on respect and public adulation.

"You know what's so funny about this episode?" he said. "It seems like people appreciate me more when I lose."

In Norris' case, that may be unfortunate, because it doesn't appear that he'll be losing anytime soon. ■

Tommy Gibbons

(Continued from page 47)

surely be knocked out in an early round. Everybody but Tommy Gibbons himself, that is; Tommy was convinced that he could lick Dempsey if he just kept up a steady attack, which would

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Tommy Gibbons

(Continued from page 58)

prevent Jack from getting set.

"If," Gibbons had said, "he can't hit me hard, he can't knock me out. And if he can't knock me out, he can't beat me. I'm a better boxer than he is."

He was right about the comparison; Gibbons was one of the finest boxing masters of all-time. It might seem strange to read about the greatness of a fighter who never won the world title. But Tommy Gibbons didn't have to be a champion. It was just his luck that he happened along at a time when the heavyweight title was ruled by the only two guys he couldn't lick—Dempsey and Gene Tunney. Gibbons also lost to Harry Greb, who beat him once in four bouts, and to Billy Miske, who topped him on a foul. Except for those losses, nobody, over a period of 13 years, ever licked him.

He beat plenty of fighters, though. He licked the very rugged Chuck Wiggins four times; he whipped "The Orchid Man," Georges Carpentier, who reigned as light heavyweight champion; he defeated former middleweight champion George Chip, former light heavyweight titlist Battling Levinsky, rugged contender Kid Norfolk, and close to 100 others.

How good was Gibbons? After their fight in Shelby, Montana, Dempsey said, "Gibbons was the best boxer—and the toughest fighter—I've ever faced."

Some observers claim that if it hadn't been for Shelby, only hard-core fight fans and historians would ever have heard of Gibbons. They're right; he would have gone the same road as Joe Choynski, Willie Lewis, Les Darcy, and a host of other magnificent fighters who cut a temporary swath of fame, but never achieved lasting renown, either because they didn't become champion or were not a part of a memorable fight.

But Dempsey-Gibbons was one of the great sagas of boxing. And it was Gibbons, and not Dempsey, who helped make the story.

A bunch of political lights of that Montana cowtown wanted to put the place on the map so that they could sell their oil rights for big money. Hosting a prize fight, they decided, would be the best way to do it. So they contacted Dempsey's manager, Jack "Doc" Kearns. Upon hearing that Shelby contained a scant 500 people and was miles out in the sticks, Kearns laughed it off. While laughing, he said he'd fight if he got a guarantee of $310,000. Laughing back, the Shelby folk accepted, and contracts were subsequently signed.

The money was to be paid in three equal installments *before* the champion entered the ring. At signing, $110,000 came through. But Shelby had trouble raising the second $100,000, which almost brought a cancellation, and, because of the negative publicity, resulted in the tiny gate. After cleaning out three Shelby banks and most of the personal savings of the cowtown promoters, Kearns allowed Dempsey to enter the ring.

Unfortunately, Gibbons, certain that he could lick Dempsey, and knowing the title was worth $1-million, had agreed to the stipulation that he would receive any money left over after Dempsey was paid. Since the receipts totaled less than $210,000, Tommy was lucky to get away with his $7,500 training expenses. As for Kearns and Dempsey, they had sacked Shelby

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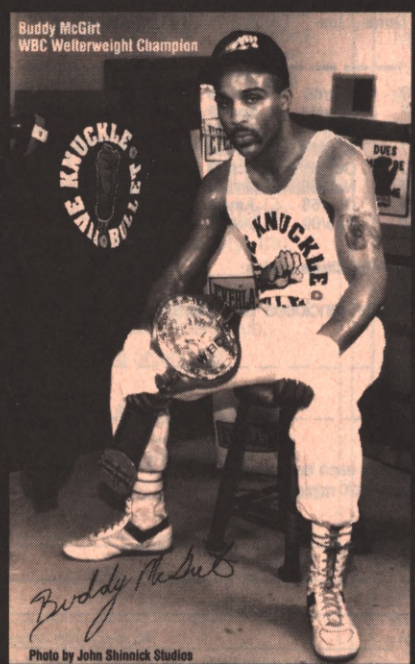

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clean, a con job that made the James brothers, Belle Starr, and the Daltons look like refugees from a Sunday school picnic.

Only about 7,000 persons paid to see the match, and 3,000 got in for half-price. Moreover, when the big fight began, the gates were thrown open—they would otherwise have been knocked down—and 10,000 more cowboys, Indians, and oil men poured in.

Dempsey proved too strong for the challenger, but Gibbons proved too fast for the champion. Tommy grabbed, twisted, held, sidestepped, and did whatever he had to in order to last the distance. By the fight's finish, he had become the crowd's favorite. That a blown-up light heavyweight went 15 rounds with the great Jack Dempsey was quite a marvelous achievement.

When it was all over, everybody was happy, except for the three promoters.

Moses Zimmerman, who was initially responsible for the whole mess, and who was among those who went broke, was asked what he thought of the incredible affair. Moses pulled out his empty pockets and grinned wryly.

"You'll have to lend me the price of a shave," he said, "but it sure was a helluva fight, wasn't it?"

It had been nothing less. And after the death of Tommy Gibbons, we were all reminded of that fact just one more time. ■

Fight Films

(Continued from page 43)

ready at work to prevent Stuart's pictures from being shown in public. Citing the supposed debasing influence of prize fighting, civic groups, led by the 300,000-strong Women's Christian Temperance Union, lobbied federal, state, and municipal lawmakers to enact legislation against fight pictures.

After several months of debate, and Stuart falsely claiming that his photographic negatives were probably too poor to use, most bills died in committee. By May 1897, Fitzsimmons was the guest of Congressmen on Capital Hill, and the Veriscope Company began offering feature film exhibitions of the Corbett-Fitzsimmons fight in opera houses across the United States.

When the films were released, they received more interest than any other set of motion pictures produced in the 19th century. The objections of the WCTU were countered by the showing of the films at special ladies' matinees. Stuart publicizing the films in William Randolph Hearst's mass-circulation yellow tabloids, and the showmanship pitched in by Corbett's manager, William A. Brady, combined to enable the Veriscope to take in more than $750,000 over the next three years.

Following the financial success of the Corbett-Fitzsimmons deal, motion picture arrangements became a standard part of all major contests. The fight establishment received bigger profits and increasing publicity, while all of the pioneering film companies benefited from the sales. Although electrical failures ruined the pictures of the Jeffries-Fitzsimmons bout in June 1899, the Biograph Company, along with a clandestine cinematographer from the rival Vitagraph Company, took well-lit, indoor pictures of the Jeffries-Tom Sharkey marathon that November.

With the box office success of the film, the production and marketing of fight pictures became big business. Some companies, such as the Miles Brothers of San Francisco, began to specialize in the genre. When the popular Jeffries retired, the Miles Brothers continued to make films that took in six-figure profits, including Battling Nelson vs. Jimmy Britt (1905), Philadelphia Jack O'Brien vs. Tommy Burns (1906), and the three grudge matches between Nelson and Joe Gans (1906-1908).

There was little complaint about the growing numbers of fight films. Much debate was heard about the influence of movies in general, which, by 1908, had reached an amazing level of popularity; millions flocked to the nickelodeons on an almost daily basis. But prize fight films now represented only a small part of the picture business. They were no matter of public concern until December 26, 1908, when Jack Johnson, the first black heavyweight champion, became the star of the film taken at his moment of glory.

In the age of Jim Crow, the status that the heavyweight crown granted to the charismatic Johnson threatened white America. Pictures of the boastful champion knocking white opponents unconscious with single blows, as seen in the Johnson-Ketchel film (1909), unsettled many whites and offered the black community a sense of power and achievement.

On July 4, 1910, the nation willingly focused its attention on the contest be-

(Continued on page 63)

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Fight Films

(Continued from page 61)

tween Johnson and "Great White Hope" Jeffries. But when the champion easily whipped Jeff, outcry was immediately directed against the films. Although leading producers had poured hundreds of thousands of dollars into their work, officials across the U.S. imposed ad hoc restraints against showings of the pictures. The ban was embraced throughout the South, and most northern cities followed suit, citing fears of interracial violence.

In 1912, as Johnson approached another Fourth of July victory, this one over white hope Fireman Jim Flynn, Congress, led by southern sponsors, passed a statute outlawing the interstate transportation of prize fight films. Moralist cant was again heard in the passage of the Sims Act. (The United Society For Christian Endeavor had replaced the WCTU as directors of the campaign.) But it was clear that the legislation was aimed squarely at the champion, whose chief crime was his race.

In 1915, when Johnson finally went down to behemoth Jess Willard before motion picture cameras in Havana, some film distributors attempted to subvert the new law. One enterprising company apparently even tried to get around the interstate transportation provision by projecting the film of Willard-Johnson across the Canadian border. Hoping to cash in on films of Willard's victory, showman L. Lawrence Weber tested the Sims Act before the Supreme Court, but the justices, who had recently written of the cinematic medium's "capacity for evil," upheld the ban.

Boxing itself, however, continued to grow. As Willard, and Dempsey after him, drew the color lines against black fighters, promoters like Tex Rickard continued to film their million-dollar fights and challenge the law they knew had been aimed more at Jack Johnson than boxing itself. After one conviction and a slap on the wrist, American producers filmed more and more fights and began to exhibit them without interference.

In the 1920s, boxing, like Hollywood, was in its heyday. A new medium, radio, captured the sport by broadcasting it live. The law against fight films

(Continued on page 64)

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Fight Films

(Continued from page 63)

was belatedly rescinded in 1940, after two decades of successful production and exhibition. By 1950, fight films, and live broadcasts, were not only legal, but made up a major portion of America's prime time programming during TV's first decade.

A 60-year fight was over. ■

Dan Streible is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Texas.

The Great Escape

(Continued from page 25)

"If you look at somebody wrong, or stare at them long enough, he'll pull out [a gun] and waste you," said Acevedo, who knows from experience. "It almost happened to me on Avenue A. This guy was looking at me, and I was looking at him. He said, 'You wanna be a hero?' and he just pulled out. I ran behind a car. He would have shot me if I gave him the chance."

Under other circumstances, Acevedo would have stood his ground. But the semi-automatic nine millimeter has become the great equalizer in modern-day urban warfare, and Acevedo is too bright to allow his future to get snuffed out on the street. Besides, he says he knows who the guy is. Someday he'll see him again, and the circumstances might be different. Vengeance is part of life in neighborhoods like Alphabet City. For most residents, so is fear.

"Am I scared?" said Acevedo, repeating the question as if it were a dumb one. "Nah, this is my neighborhood. I've been here all my life. I don't feel any danger. Everybody knows me now. That's how I've made most of my friends. I used to beat them up."

***

The number of young men who are murdered every year in neighborhoods like South Central Los Angeles and Alphabet City is appalling. But areas like these have produced some of the sport's best fighters. With poverty, crime, and violence at the core of daily life, young men are forced to fight in order to survive. Such an atmosphere helps form the makeup of many fighters.

"I think expressing aggression is an independent thing," said Dr. Alan Lans, the team psychiatrist for the New York Mets. "If someone has that kind of aggression inside him, there are some environments that will bring it out more than others."

Genaro Hernandez says he chose boxing as a career, and that South Central had very little to do with that decision. He doesn't deny, though, that the neighborhood has instilled a certain toughness in him.

"In any rough or violent neighborhood, you have to learn how to defend yourself," he said. "In Hollywood, they might be thinking about dancing or acting. Down here it's a little different."

Hernandez is an unbeaten world champion. That is what Nicky Acevedo aspires to be. Their lives, though separated by 3,000 miles, are bonded by a yearning to escape the neighborhoods that helped shape them.

***

During the rioting in Los Angeles, Hernandez found himself a prisoner to his apartment, located at 36th Place and Maple Avenue in South Central. He described corner stores on both ends of his block that were ravaged by looters. He said rival gang members, who would normally shoot one another for standing on the wrong side of the street, had joined forces to torch the city at the intersection of Washington and Main, only 10 blocks away.

There was fear in Hernandez' voice, and a feeling of helplessness shared by the area's law-abiding residents. And while the rage over Rodney King eventually subsided, South Central can be a harrowing experience on a normal day.

The neighborhood is home to The Crips and The Bloods, the two most notorious and violent street gangs in the country. Last year, dating through November, there were 1,039 homocides in Los Angeles, and 41 percent of them were committed in South Central. Fueling the violence are turf wars and street sales of rock cocaine, otherwise known as crack. The sale of cocaine is a major source of income for South Central's gangs, and when the gang wars erupt, innocent people are often caught in the crossfire. As they say in L.A., stray bullets don't have names on them.

"From a violent crime standpoint, South Central L.A. is the most troubled area," said Arthur Holmes, a Los Angeles police officer. "As far as the gang problem, it's one of the worst. If someone is caught in someone else's 'hood, even if he's not a gang member, that person could face some very serious consequences."

For the 26-year-old Hernandez, growing up in South Central has meant maintaining a constant awareness of such consequences. Tall, lean, and ready with a smile, he is not intimidating, not even in a pair of trunks and gloves. There is a steady calm in his voice and to his attitude. He's unmistakably a Californian.

"The environment is pretty bad," he said. "There are a lot of new gangs, and we're right in the middle of it. There's a store on the corner that we go to, and we always have to watch for oncoming cars in case there's a drive-by."

Drive-by shootings were introduced in the late-'70s by The Crips and The Bloods. They found them an easy way to execute rivals while ensuring a quick escape. The tragedy of drive-bys is that a lot of innocent people die in the spray of gunfire.

"Not too many people go hand to hand anymore," said Holmes. "Drive-by is the easiest way to do it because you're moving. It's the chosen method these days. But it's cowardly. They shoot indiscriminately into a crowd."

On two occasions, Hernandez barely escaped the nameless bullets. As a 17-year-old, he was furiously pumping the pedals of his bicycle when he banged his knee into the bottom of the bike's curved handlebars. He stopped, and, out of anger, threw the bike into the street. A little further up the block, he saw a van creeping into the same intersection his bike would have carried him across.

"All of a sudden the side doors opened and they opened fire at a group of kids," said Hernandez. "All I could hear were bullets ricocheting off the house behind me."

Another time, Hernandez and his older brother Rudy were standing in front of a liquor store when a carload of gang members drove by.

"I saw someone pointing a .38 out the window," said Hernandez. "I did one of those movie moves and just dove into the store. There were bullet holes in the wall were I had been standing."

***

South Central is not a fun place to grow up. If you aren't a gang member, you are open game for the lawlessness of the streets. And if you are a gang member, you're still considered open game. The only difference is that your

(Continued on page 66)

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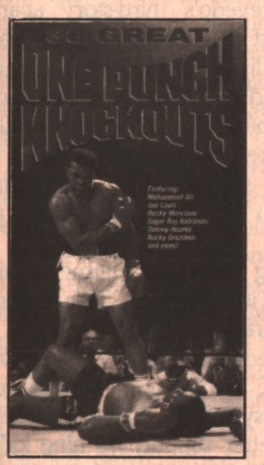

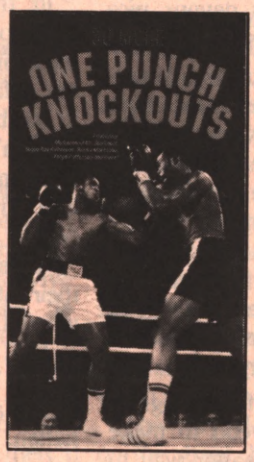

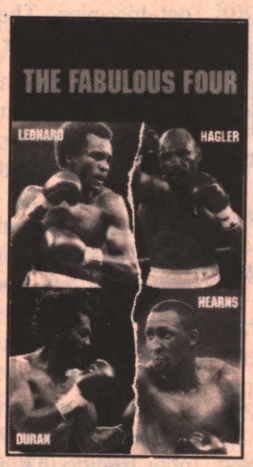

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The Great Escape

(Continued from page 64)

gang colors represent a target for rival gangs to shoot at.

"Most of the trouble here is gang-related," said Hernandez. "I stayed away from all that. I had one or two fights on the street. It gave me more confidence knowing I could box."

Boxing was first taught to Rudy after he was routinely robbed of the family's grocery money by the neighborhood's black gangs. Rodolfo Hernandez, their father, finally took Rudy to the gym to teach him how to defend himself. Soon after, Genaro began to tag along.

When the Hernandez brothers began boxing, there wasn't enough time to get into trouble. Immediately after school, they'd go to the gym and spend the majority of the afternoon training. When they got home, they ate, did their homework, and were sent off to bed.

"I was glad that I had a father who was very strict," said Hernandez. "I'm glad I chose a good career, and hopefully I'll get out of this neighborhood."

***

Acevedo, who is 17, shares Hernandez' vision; he hopes boxing will provide a way out of Alphabet City. The difference is that while Hernandez survived the streets, Acevedo had to be saved from them.

Acevedo is a reformed bully. Today, he is part cowboy and part choirboy. He knows all too well the harshness of the streets, and won't allow himself to get too nice. The streets devour *nice* kids. So do other fighters.

Acevedo has an 18-month-old daughter and attends an alternative high school designed to provide students with a trade. But his real future, his real chance for escape, is boxing. There isn't a trade school in the city that could have taught him how to perfect a left hook. He learned that from his father at Gleason's Gym, which serves as a secondary school for a lot of young, tough city kids.

Being a well-known amateur fighter makes it easier for Acevedo to make new friends. It's also an easier way to get shot.

"Everyone knows I know how to fight," he said. "They can't beat me with their hands, so they'll shoot me."

The Acevedo family is a pillar of decency in a collapsing neighborhood of moral decay. There are eight Acevedo boys, five of whom box, and one sister. In March, Nicky, George, and Danny, the three oldest boys, became the first trio of brothers to win New York Golden Gloves titles in the same tournament. They are hoping to repeat their success at this summer's Olympic Trials.

In the Acevedo's third-story apartment on East 6th Street, a heavybag hangs in the living room, and a chinup bar is fastened to a doorway that leads to the boys' bedroom. When the brothers can't make it to Gleason's, which is a 30-minute subway ride across the East River to Brooklyn, they train at home.

"Everything starts at home," said their father, Tito Acevedo. "I start them when they are about three."

Tito Acevedo is a safety officer at Wards Island, a maximum security forensic and psychiatric facility in Manhattan. To better support his nine kids, he's also worked part-time as an armed courier, transporting money in armored trucks, and he is currently doing investigative work for a high-powered criminal lawyer. Tito knows about danger and tough guys. That is why he's

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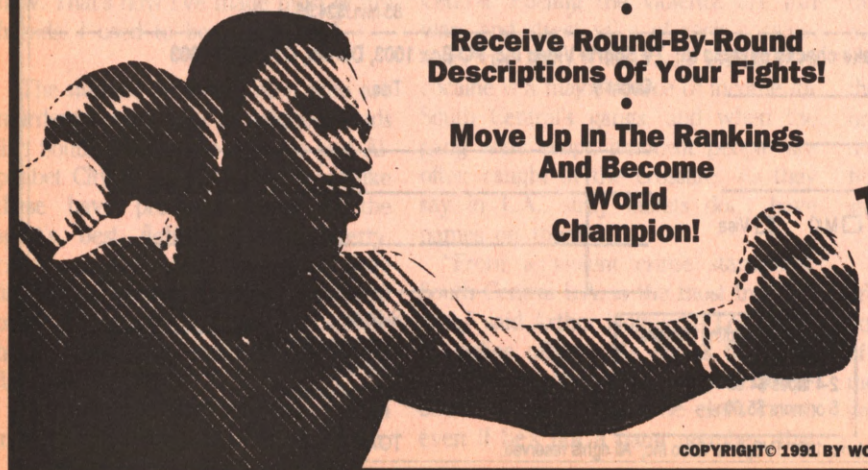

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shielded his children from the mayhem of the streets by turning them into fighters. Not streetfighters.

"My pops and boxing saved me," said Nicky. "If he left me with my mother, I don't know where I'd be."

Acevedo's parents split up when he was very young; he has no recollection of them living together. Nicky's mother also grew up in Alphabet City, and spent much of her childhood buying drugs for her own mother, the same way another kid might run to the market to buy a quart of milk. She, too, grew up to be a drug abuser. "She's still lost," said Tito.

Nicky missed the entire first grade simply because his mother failed to send him. While he should have been in school learning the alphabet, he was on the streets, learning how to survive Alphabet City. At the age of six, he experienced an unofficial initiation.

"This kid was choking me," said Acevedo, whose assailant was about 16. "So there was a bottle on the floor. I reached down, broke it, and then I stabbed him."

Shortly after that incident, Tito, who was already married to his current wife, Minerva, gained full custody of his son. Nicky's life instantly changed. He is still streetwise, but is now subdued and unassuming. The most important thing Tito has taught his children about the streets is that it's wise to stay off them.

"When I was younger, I was a bully," admitted Nicky. "I used to pick on everybody. Now, most of the guys I grew up with smoke weed or drink 40s [40-ounce bottles of beer]. We don't hang out on the streets much. We're usually training. There's no time."

Tito insists that even if there was time, the asphalt jungle that surrounds their home is the last place his boys would be. There was once a banner that hung across Avenues B and C: *This is a drug-watch neighborhood—dealers and buyers get out!* Such warnings are hardly deterrents; dealers lurk in the shadows of burned out buildings and then emerge to sell their product in broad daylight. A close inspection of some streetcorners in Lower Manhattan will reveal empty crack vials and used syringes.

"You name it, they sell it," said Nicky. "Last month we were gonna beat up some drug dealers around the corner."

It is perhaps the only way good people like the Acevedos can fight back. Vigilantness, though, is hardly the right answer. Nicky's uncle, Ivan Muniz, who was once a good amateur fighter, paid the ultimate price for trying to take back the streets three years ago. After an altercation with a drug dealer, he was shot 26 times. Tito remembers the rainy day well; he was called from work to identify the body. The rain, mixed with Muniz' blood, turned Rivington Street into a crimson river.

***

The violence in South Central, a '90s version of Dodge City, has sucked up many people. A lot of Hernandez' boyhood friends have been victims of gang violence or shipped off to jail. Those who survived have a firm grip on the neighborhood.

"I see the guys I grew up with, and they don't have a future," he said. "Once in a while, I hear about one of my friends getting shot. But I don't even talk to them anymore. They really don't listen; they're in their own world. I just avoid it."

The way Hernandez sees it, if he's on the street, he's a potential target. In a neighborhood where they kill their own, it doesn't matter that he's a world champion. Still, it is hard for him to resist his curiosity. After all, it's *his* neighborhood, too. When there is commotion, which is almost every day, he often goes out to investigate.

"He worries me," said Hernandez' 20-year-old bride, Liliana, who also grew up in South Central. "Everybody should lock themselves in when the trouble starts. But when something is going on, he has to go out and see what's happening."

Despite his success—Hernandez, 26-0 (12), won the title with a ninth-round kayo of Daniel Londas last November—and the ability to use his fists rather well, Hernandez does not have a passport to freely walk the streets of South Central.

"They just see me as another person," he said. "Out here, if they can't take what I have, they'll shoot me or stab me for it. I know everybody around here, but I do go out with caution. I don't think some of them like me. But as long as I don't cause them trouble, they don't cause me trouble. I'd like to get a house out of this area. I don't want my kid growing up here."

As we went to press, Liliana was ready to give birth to the couple's first child. A few more title defenses and Hernandez promises he will move away from South Central, joining baseball stars Darryl Strawberry and Eric

(Continued on page 71)

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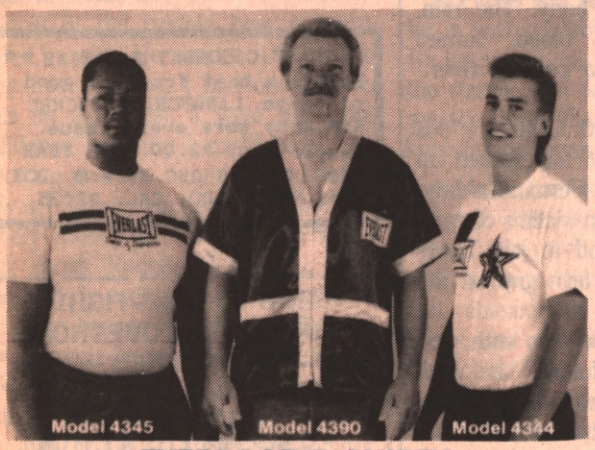

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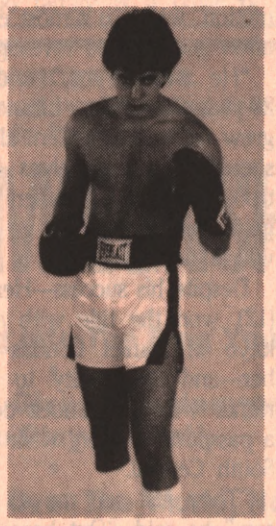

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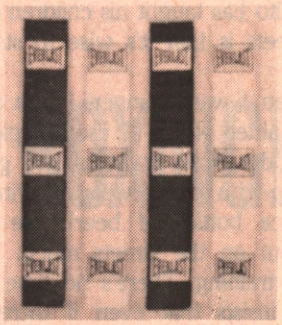

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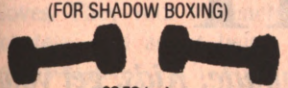

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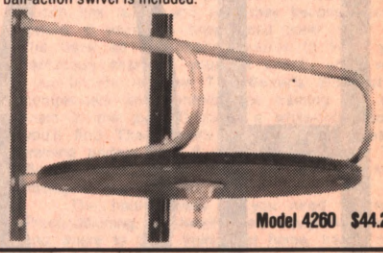

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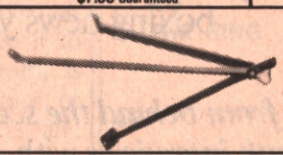

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The Great Escape

(Continued from page 67)

Davis as successful athletes who were able to pull themselves out.

"Anywhere would be better than here," said Liliana. "Now that Genaro's a world champion, people think of him as having a lot of money. You never know what could happen. Especially around here. People will do anything for money."

But even if Hernandez does make it out, there is a sense of altruistic responsibility that will always tug him back.

"I like working with kids," he said. "I've sent out some messages, but I'd like to reach out to more kids."

For most of the youths in South Central, role models are the drug pushers and gang bangers who drive fancy cars up and down Adams Boulevard, the drug center of South Central. Most of the teens see cellular phones and expensive sneakers as symbols of status. But that life, and the image it projects, is a lie.

"I saw a guy who had three or four gold chains around his neck," said Hernandez, who lives near Adams Boulevard. "Two months later I saw him again, and the chains were turning color. They weren't even real gold. There are a lot of kids out there who look up to these kind of people. I think that could be changed if they had a little support from someone."

Someone other than the gang bangers. Someone other than the coke peddlers. Someone like Hernandez.

***

The same false role models prowl the streets of Lower Manhattan. Young children are paid handsomely to act as lookouts for patrolling police officers. With drug money readily available, why should they waste their time with a paper route? Why humiliate oneself and work for minimum wage flipping burgers at McDonald's?

The death of his uncle helped clear up any illusions Nicky might have had about the streets. He spends most of his time with George and Danny, and in May, the trio shared *one* room at Chicago's Sheraton International Hotel while competing at the National Golden Gloves. They root for each other passionately, and admit being more nervous watching each other fight than when in the ring themselves.

"It's fun," said Nicky. "We all cheer each other on. We push each other. We keep each other on the edge."

Now competing in senior tournaments, Nicky has won the Junior Olympic Nationals, the National Silver Gloves, and the Junior World Championships. Danny and George are backed by a local sponsor, but Nicky has caught the attention of Shelly Finkel, who manages world champions Evander Holyfield, Pernell Whitaker, and Meldrick Taylor.

Finkel has flown Acevedo to Whitaker's training camp in Virginia Beach to work with trainer Lou Duva. Acevedo, still in a teenager's body, was asked to spar with IBF junior lightweight champion John-John Molina and national amateur champion Oscar De La Hoya. He left a positive impression.

"He's got all the talent," said Duva. "He's just got to mature. He's got the capabilities of being a world champion. It's just a matter of time."

Time is relative in Alphabet City and South Central L.A. Acevedo and Hernandez live day to day, one step ahead of the violence that seems to stop at their doorsteps. They know they'll make it out. *It's just a matter of time.* They're counting the seconds. ■

New Faces

(Continued from page 16)

learn to handle the fighters who will try to frustrate him with lateral movement and good footwork.

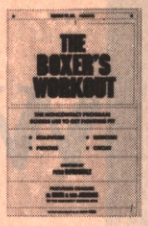
Gonzalez, whose nickname was given to him by Degollado, who noted his fighter's complexion and likened it to Mexico's pale Bolillo pastry rolls, is single. When he is not fighting or training, he likes to play soccer and swim. Not surprisingly, his idol is another Mexican junior welterweight, Julio Cesar Chavez. Maldonado must have it in mind to time his young fighter's rise so that it coincides with Chavez' retirement, or at least his rise in weight. But Gonzalez must first prove he can maintain his fantastic kayo percentage against a higher class of opposition.

One thing is for sure: With his explosive punching power, it's going to be fun to see how far the Mexican can go. ■

England's Eric Armit is one of boxing's foremost recordkeepers, and a former member of the WBC ratings committee.

"The total effect is a ★ KNOCKOUT." ★

Publisher's Weekly



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TV SPORTS
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Worldwide Ratings

WBC as of April

WBA as of March

IBF as of May

HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Evander Holyfield (USA)	C	C	C
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	1	5	5
Riddick Bowe (USA)	2	3	3
Lennox Lewis (GB)	3	2	4
Tony Tucker (USA)	4	11	10
George Foreman (USA)	5	4	1
Larry Holmes (USA)	6	7	8
Tim Witherspoon (USA)	7	6	7
Alex Stewart (JAM)	8	-	-
Phil Jackson (USA)	9	10	10
Ray Mercer (USA)	10	-	9
Pierre Coetzer (SA)	-	1	2
Michael Moorer (USA)	11	8	6
Bert Cooper (USA)	12	9	11

CRUISERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	C	-	-
Orlin Norris (USA)	1	4	3
Johnny Nelson (GB)	2	3	2
Derek Angol (GB)	3	2	5
Akim Tafer (FRA)	4	5	11
Dwight Muhammad Qawi (USA)	5	7	6
Massimiliano Duran (ITA)	6	-	-
Robert Daniels (USA)	7	10	-
Dennis Andries (GB)	8	8	-
Alfred Cole (USA)	9	1	1
Nate Miller (USA)	10	-	-
Bobby Czyz (USA)	-	C	-
Don Lalonde (CAN)	-	6	7
Bashiru Ali (NIG)	16	9	-
James Warring (USA)	-	-	C
Mike Hunter (USA)	-	12	4
Carlos DeLeon (PR)	-	-	8
Uriah Grant (USA)	-	-	9
Dmitrij Eliseev (USSR)	18	-	10

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	C	-	-
Frank Tate (USA)	1	1	1
David Vedder (USA)	2	-	-
Christophe Tiozzo (FRA)	3	5	9
Lottie Mwale (ZAM)	4	-	-
Randall Yonker (USA)	5	-	-
Don Lalonde (CAN)	6	-	-
Esteban Pizarro (PR)	7	8	7
Crawford Ashley (GB)	8	11	-
Isaias Lucero (MEX)	9	-	-
Henry Maske (GER)	10	12	6
Virgil Hill (USA)	-	2	2
Thomas Hearns (USA)	-	3	-
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	12	4	-
Andrew Maynard (USA)	11	6	10
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	16	7	-
Wan Sub Lee (KOR)	28	9	-
Saul Montana (MEX)	-	10	3
Charles Williams (USA)	-	-	C
Mwehu Beya (ITA)	-	-	4
Tim Hillie (USA)	-	-	5
Booker Word (USA)	15	-	8

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	C	-	-
Michael Nunn (USA)	1	1	2
Tony Thornton (USA)	2	2	1
Nigel Benn (GB)	3	4	10
Frank Nicotra (FRA)	4	3	3
Dan Schommer (USA)	5	-	-
Otis Grant (CAN)	6	12	-
Ron Essett (USA)	7	7	-
Henry Wharton (GB)	8	-	9
James Cook (GB)	9	10	8
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	10	-	4
Victor Cordoba (PAN)	-	C	-
Tim Littles (USA)	19	5	5
Frank Liles (USA)	17	6	-
Lindell Holmes (USA)	16	8	6
Randall Yonker (USA)	-	9	-
Iran Barkley (USA)	-	-	C
Larry Musgrove (USA)	12	-	7

MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julian Jackson (USA)	C	-	-
Sumbu Kalambay (ITA)	1	3	5
Lamar Parks (USA)	2	4	2
Mike McCallum (JAM)	3	5	1
Herol Graham (GB)	4	-	-
Jorge Castro (ARG)	5	-	-
Roy Jones (USA)	6	-	4
Steve Collins (USA)	7	1	8
Willie Monroe (USA)	8	-	-
Francesco Dell'Aquila (ITA)	9	-	11
Ron Collins (USA)	10	-	-
Reggie Johnson (USA)	-	2	-
Chad Parker (USA)	-	6	-
Joe Gatti (USA)	13	7	-
Ruben Cabral (ARG)	-	8	-
Percy Harris (USA)	-	9	7
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	12	10	3
James Toney (USA)	-	-	C
Glenn Wolfe (USA)	-	-	6
Tyrone Trice (USA)	-	-	9
Dave Tiberi (USA)	20	-	10

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Terry Norris (USA)	C	-	-
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	1	1	-
Simon Brown (USA)	2	5	-
Aaron Davis (USA)	3	2	7
Jean-Claude Fontana (FRA)	4	12	11
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	5	-	12
Carl Daniels (USA)	6	-	4
Yung Kil Chung (KOR)	7	7	-
Gilbert Dele (FRA)	8	4	1
Wally Swift (GB)	9	-	3
William Jones (USA)	10	-	-
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	-	C	-
Roy Jones (USA)	-	3	-
Jorge Castro (ARG)	-	6	6
Hitoshi Kamiyama (JAP)	17	8	-
Vernon Phillips (USA)	-	9	10
Gregory Clark (SA)	-	10	-
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	-	-	C
Vincent Pettway (USA)	11	-	2
Gilbert Baptist (USA)	21	-	5
Quincy Taylor (USA)	-	-	8
Pat Lawlor (USA)	15	11	9

WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
James McGirt (USA)	C	-	-
Genaro Leon (MEX)	1	4	12
Patrizio Oliva (ITA)	2	7	1
Santos Cardona (PR)	3	-	-
Glenwood Brown (USA)	4	3	9
Luis Gabriel Garcia (VEN)	5	2	2
Crisanto Espana (VEN)	6	1	3
Vernon Phillips (USA)	7	-	-
Jong Oh Park (KOR)	8	5	-
David Gonzalez (USA)	9	-	8
Pat Barret (GB)	10	-	-
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	-	C	-
Yori Campas (MEX)	24	6	4
Donovan Boucher (CAN)	12	8	11
Ludovic Proto (FRA)	11	9	-
Anthony Jones (USA)	-	10	-
Maurice Blocker (USA)	-	-	C
Kevin Pompey (USA)	21	-	5
Buck Smith (USA)	14	12	6
Stephan Johnson (USA)	-	-	7
Angel Hernandez (SPA)	-	-	10

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	-	-
Juan M. Coggi (ARG)	1	2	-
Hector Camacho (PR)	2	-	-
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	3	-	1
Terrence Alli (USA)	4	4	2
Rodney Moore (USA)	5	3	4
Greg Haugen (USA)	6	-	-
Angel Hernandez (PR)	7	-	-
Andy Holligan (GB)	8	-	8

Carlos Gonzalez (MEX)	9	-	-
Charles Murray (USA)	10	-	3
Edwin Rosario (PR)	-	C	-
Akinobu Hiranaka (JAP)	-	1	-
Pat Barrett (GB)	-	5	5
Morris East (PHIL)	28	6	-
Valery Kayumba (ZAI)	22	7	-
Loreto Garza (USA)	19	8	-
Rodolfo Aguilar (PAN)	30	9	-
Ike Quartey (GHA)	-	10	9
Rafael Pineda (COL)	-	-	C
Roger Mayweather (USA)	17	-	6
Oba Carr (USA)	-	11	7
Vince Phillips (USA)	15	-	10

LIGHTWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	-	C	-
Darryll Tyson (USA)	1	3	5
Miguel Gonzalez (MEX)	2	7	-
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	3	6	10
Jorge Paez (MEX)	4	4	4
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	5	-	1
Chil Sung Chun (KOR)	6	1	-
Wilfredo Rocha (COL)	7	-	11
Joey Garnache (USA)	8	2	-
Frankie Mitchell (USA)	9	8	8
Ramon Marchena (MEX)	10	-	-
Tony Lopez (USA)	-	5	9
Antonio Renzo (ITA)	26	9	-
Tracy Spann (USA)	14	10	2
Eduardo Molina (COL)	18	-	3
Miguel Julio (COL)	24	-	6
Shane Knox (AUSTRL)	12	-	7

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	C	-	-
Gabe Ruelas (USA)	1	2	6
Jeff Fenech (AUSTRL)	2	4	12
Eugenie Speed (USA)	3	-	11
Jimmy Garcia (COL)	4	-	-
Renato Cornett (AUSTRL)	5	11	-
Calvin Grove (USA)	6	5	8
Tony Lopez (USA)	7	-	-
Victor Hugo Paz (ARG)	8	-	-
Regilio Tuur (HOL)	9	-	-
Jimmy Bredahl (DEN)	10	3	-
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	-	C	-
Yuji Watanabe (JAP)	19	1	-
Juan Negron (PR)	14	6	-
Masuaki Takeda (JAP)	28	7	-
Bernard Taylor (USA)	-	8	2
Harold Warren (USA)	22	9	-
Tiger Ari (PHIL)	23	10	-
John-John Molina (PR)	-	-	C
Fernando Caicedo (COL)	-	-	1
Coco Ramirez (MEX)	12	-	3
Jerry Ngobeni (SA)	-	-	4
Jackie Gunguluza (SA)	-	-	5
Orlando Marimon (COL)	-	-	7
Orlando Soto (PAN)	-	-	9
Wilson Rodriguez (DR)	29	-	10

FEATHERWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Paul Hodkinson (GB)	C	-	-
Kevin Kelley (USA)	1	1	3
Ever Beleno (COL)	2	9	6
Goyo Vargas (MEX)	3	-	-
Marcos Villasana (MEX)	4	-	-
James Leija (USA)	5	6	4
Jose Ramos (DR)	6	-	-
Jemal Hinton (USA)	7	3	8
Ricardo Cepeda (USA)	8	-	-
Miguel Arrozal (PHIL)	9	-	-
Steve Cruz (USA)	10	-	-
Yung Kyun Park (KOR)	-	C	-
Tom Johnson (USA)	11	2	2
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	-	4	-
Eloy Rojas (VEN)	-	5	-
Colin McMillan (GB)	13	7	10
Manuel Medina (MEX)	-	-	C
November Ntshingila (SA)	-	-	1
Louie Espinoza (USA)	17	-	5
Cedric Mingo (USA)	-	-	7
Troy Dorsey (USA)	14	-	9

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Thierry Jacob (FRA)	C	-	-
Tracy Patterson (USA)	1	1	1
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	2	-	-
Freddy Cruz (DR)	3	2	-
Kennedy McKinney (USA)	4	8	2
Pedro Decima (ARG)	5	-	5
Rudy Zavala (USA)	6	11	10
Julio Gervacio (DR)	7	-	-
Jose Garcia (DR)	8	-	-
Jae Won Choi (KOR)	9	5	-
Luis Mendoza (COL)	10	4	-
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	-	C	-
Ramon Guzman (VEN)	-	3	6
Hiroaki Yokota (JAP)	23	6	-
Jose Rincones (VEN)	-	7	7
Raul Perez (MEX)	-	9	12
Arnulfo Romero (PAN)	-	10	-
Welcome Ncita (SA)	-	-	C
Richard Duran (USA)	-	-	3
Jesus Salud (USA)	19	-	4
Sakda Sawpungdee (THAI)	-	-	8
Nurhuda (INDO)	-	-	9

BANTAMWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Victor Rabanales (MEX)	C	-	-
Chang Kyun Oh (KOR)	1	-	-
Gerardo Martinez (USA)	2	-	9
Junior Jones (USA)	3	2	1
Eliecer Julio (COL)	4	1	4
Clarence Adams (USA)	5	7	6
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	6	6	-
Daorung Chuvatana (THAI)	7	3	-
Javier Leon (MEX)	8	9	3
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	9	11	11
Luis Ocampo (ARG)	10	-	-
Eddie Cook (USA)	-	C	-
Yasuey Yakushiji (JAP)	11	4	-
Israel Contreras (VEN)	23	5	-
Greg Richardson (USA)	-	8	-
Harold Mestre (COL)	30	10	8
Orlando Canizales (USA)	-	-	C
Juvenal Berrio (COL)	-	-	2
Francisco Alvarez (COL)	20	-	5
Junai Ramayana (INDO)	-	-	7
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	-	-	10

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Sung Kil Moon (KOR)	C	-	-
Greg Richardson (USA)	1	-	-
Jose Luis Bueno (MEX)	2	-	3
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	3	9	-
Thalerngsak Sithbaobay (THAI)	4	2	-
Elvis Alvarez (COL)	5	11	-
Kenji Matsumura (JAP)	6	6	-
Armando Salazar (MEX)	7	-	-
Armando Castro (MEX)	8	3	9
Noel Cogollo (COL)	9	-	-
Joel Luna (MEX)	10	7	1
Katsuya Onizuka (JAP)	-	1	-
Hyun Chul Lee (KOR)	23	4	-
Kotaro Hayashi (JAP)	-	5	-
Jing Gil Byun (KOR)	11	8	-
Lamhot Simamora (INDO)	19	10	7
Robert Quiroga (USA)	-	-	C
Luiz Ferreira (BRA)	20	-	2
Vincenzo Belcastro (ITA)	-	-	4
Carlos Mercado (COL)	17	-	5
Samuel Duran (PHIL)	-	-	6
Ole Kiatwonway (USA)	-	-	8
Dan Nietes (PHIL)	-	-	10
Eleodoro Urbina (PER)	-	8	-
Koji Matsumoto (JAP)	-	10	-

FLYWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Muangchai Kittikasem (THAI)	C	-	-
Isaias Zamudio (USA)	1	-	2
Alberto Jimenez (MEX)	2	-	-
Yuri Arbachakov (USSR)	3	3	7
Yun Un Chin (KOR)	4	5	-
Rolando Pascua (PHIL)	5	11	-
Al Kotey (GHA)	6	10	5
Sot Chitalada (THAI)	7	-	-
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	8	-	-
Cuachtemoc Gomez (MEX)	9	-	-
Antonio Perez (MEX)	10	-	-
Yong Kang Kim (KOR)	-	C	-
David Griman (VEN)	-	1	-
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	-	2	1
Scotty Olson (USA)	12	4	3
Alvaro Mercado (COL)	-	6	10
Jonathan Penalosa (PHIL)	20	7	8
Aquiles Guzman (VEN)	-	8	-
Evangelio Perez (PAN)	-	9	-
Dave McAuley (IRE)	-	-	C
Pichit Sitbangphachan (THAI)	25	-	4
Rafael Caban (PR)	-	-	6
Harold Grey (COL)	-	-	9

LIGHT FLYWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	C	-	-
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	1	9	5
Nam Hoon Cha (KOR)	2	4	-
Javier Varguez (MEX)	3	-	-
Leon Salazar (PAN)	4	-	3
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	5	8	-
Kwang Sun Kim (KOR)	6	5	-
Domingo Sosa (DR)	7	-	-
Napa Kiatwanchi (THAI)	8	-	-
Jesus Chong (MEX)	9	-	-
Shiro Yahiro (Japan)	10	10	-
Hiroka Ioka (JAP)	-	C	-
Myung Woo Yuh (JAP)	-	1	-
Juan A. Torres (PAN)	13	2	6
Benedicto Murillo (PAN)	15	3	-
Robinson Cuestas (PAN)	-	6	1
Bong Jun Kim (KOR)	17	7	-
Michael Carbajal (USA)	-	-	C
Rolando Pascua (PHIL)	-	-	2
Azadin Anhar (INDO)	-	-	4
Raul Rios (MEX)	14	-	7
Manny Melchor (PHIL)	-	-	8
Salvador Fanni (ITA)	-	-	9
Jacob Matala (SA)	-	-	10

STRAWWEIGHT	**WBC**	**WBA**	**IBF**
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	-	-
Hideyuki Ohashi (JAP)	1	4	-
Rocky Lim (JAP)	2	6	-
Ala Villamor (PHIL)	3	9	1
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	4	1	-
Danny Nunez (DR)	5	11	-
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	6	3	3
Singprasert Kittikasem (THAI)	7	-	-
Rafael Torres (DR)	8	2	4
Kwang Soo Oh (KOR)	9	-	-
Alfredo Xeque (MEX)	10	-	2
Hi Yong Choi (KOR)	-	C	-
Sung Woo Lee (KOR)	11	5	-
Marcelino Bolivar (VEN)	24	7	-
Manny Melchor (PHIL)	17	8	-
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	15	10	12
Far-Lan Lukmingkwan (THAI)	-	-	C
Felix Montiel (MEX)	-	-	5
Felix Naranjo (COL)	-	-	6
Said Iskandar (INDO)	23	-	7
Abdi Pohan (INDO)	-	-	8
Carlos Rodriguez (VEN)	25	-	9
Husni Ray (INDO)	26	-	10

The RING CLASSIC

KNACK FOR NICKNAMING

Jennings, Runyon, Igoe Excel At Taglining

From The Ring, June 1957

By Ted Carroll

A few months ago, columnist Bill Corum of the *New York Journal-American* decided that the time had come to give current heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson a nickname. Major Bill asked his readers for suggestions, and after all the returns were in, who should bob up as the winner of the naming contest but ex-lightweight king Ike Williams, whose brainchild **The Young Master** struck Mr. Corum's fancy. To say that the name of Floyd Patterson has now become synonymous with Ike's selection would be a little less than accurate. In fact, it is understood that Mr. Corum is still in the market for a nickname for Patterson that will stick.

Nicknames are funny things; they are as much a part of boxing as the gloves or the ring. They date back to bareknuckle times, when such identifications as **The Benecia Boy** and **The Tipton Slasher** were applied to ancient battlers. Why some nicknames gain such rapid popular favor, leaving an indelible imprint, has always been most intriguing.

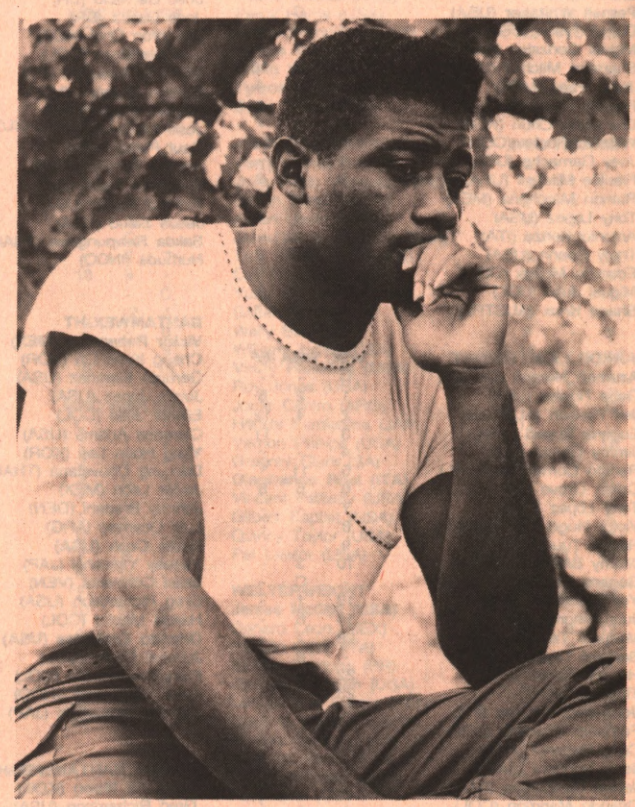
Why, for example, should his fellow townsmen in Cincinnati call former world heavyweight champion Ezzard Charles, **Snocks**?

Who first tagged Ray Robinson **Sugar Ray**? A nickname of such fame, it has been translated into the French **Le Sucre** and anglicized into **His Sugarship** in England.

Who first referred to Joe Louis as **The Brown Bomber**?

And what would be wrong with referring to the agile, atomic age Patterson as **The Jet Bomber**?

The late Damon Runyon, who had a flair for that sort of thing, is generally credited with coining the cognomen **Manassa Mauler** in describing Jack Dempsey. The tagline **Toy Bulldog** hung upon Mickey Walker, still brings a glow of satisfaction to ailing Francis Albertanti, in the dreary confines of his hospital room. Jim Jennings of the *New York Mirror* is usually given the call as having first tabbed Rocky Marciano **The Brockton Blockbuster**, although there are other claimants.



Is Floyd Patterson trying to think of a nickname for himself? The world heavyweight champion is one of the few big-time fighters without one.

No fighter was ever more aptly nicknamed than old Ace Hudkins, **The Nebraska Wildcat** of the Roaring Twenties. This colorful appellation perfectly described the clawing, cantankerous, wild, and wooly westerner.

Although a native of Schenectady, New York, which is a long way from Fargo, North Dakota, Billy Petrolle became famous as **The Fargo Express.**

A half-century ago, **Brooklyn Tommy** Sullivan belied his nickname by hailing from St. Louis, Missouri.

Old George Godfrey came from way down in Georgia, but because his manager, Jim Dougherty, was nationally known as **The Baron of Leiperville**, God-

Heavyweight hysteria: (left to right) "Two-Ton Tony" Galento, "Madcap Maxie" Baer, and "The Brown Bomber," Joe Louis. The photo was taken in 1955.

frey automatically became **The Dark Shadow of Leiperville.**

In his younger days, old Harry Wills had not only the coloration, but the sleek movements and lithe, powerful physique of a jungle cat. So it was as **The Brown Panther of New Orleans** that he became known to a generation of fight fans.

It was inevitable that massive, charging Luis Angel Firpo would be called **The Wild Bull of the Pampas.** The late Hype Igoe is said to have been the first to note the resemblance, and so describe the shaggy-haired Argentinian.

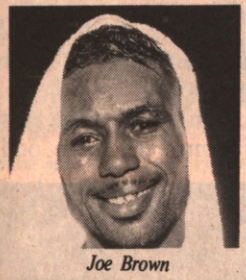
To Sid Terris, old-time lightweight star, go the alliterative honors. Sid was known as **The Galloping Ghost of the Ghetto.** His great rival for neighborhood affections, Ruby Goldstein, was **The Ghetto Jewel.**

The late, great cartoonist-writer T.A. "Tad" Dorgan dubbed Joe Gans **The Old Master** more than 50 years ago. Tad also called big Jack Johnson **Lil' Artha** after the ex-heavy king's middle name, and this proved popular for a long time.

There have been two phantoms of great reputation, the late Mike Gibbons, **The St. Paul Phantom,** and Tommy Loughran, **The Phantom of Philly.**

Being of Jewish parentage and a native of New York's East Side didn't prevent old-time featherweight Benny Valgar from being called **The French Flash** 35 years ago.

THE RING RATINGS, *June 1957*



Joe Brown

HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Floyd Patterson,** Brooklyn, NY

1. **Tommy Jackson,** Far Rockaway, NY
2. **Eddie Machen,** Reading, CA
3. **Harold Carter,** Linden, NJ
4. **Willie Pastrano,** New Orleans, LA
5. **Archie Moore,** San Diego, CA
6. **Harold Johnson,** Philadelphia, PA
7. **Bob Satterfield,** Chicago, IL
8. **Zora Folley,** Chandler, AZ
9. **Willi Besmanoff,** Germany
10. **Nino Valdes,** Cuba

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Archie Moore,** San Diego, CA

1. **Tony Anthony,** New York, NY
2. **Yolande Pompey,** Trinidad
3. **Gerhard Hecht,** Germany
4. **Hans Stretz,** Germany
5. **Chuck Spieser,** Lansing, MI
6. **Dagomar Martinez,** Uruguay
7. **Randy Turpin,** England
8. **Wim Snoek,** Holland
9. **Clarence Hinnant,** Washington, D.C.
10. **Charles Colin,** France

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Gene Fullmer,** West Jordan, UT

1. **Ray Robinson,** New York, NY
2. **Charley Humez,** France
3. **Ellsworth (Spider) Webb,** Chicago, IL
4. **Rory Calhoun,** White Plains, NY
5. **Ralph (Tiger) Jones,** Yonkers, NY
6. **Joey Giambra,** Buffalo, NY
7. **Charley Joseph,** New Orleans, LA
8. **Joey Giardello,** Philadelphia, PA
9. **Chebo Hernandez,** Mexico
10. **Bobby Boyd,** Chicago, IL

WELTERWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Carmen Basilio,** Syracuse, NY

1. **Tony DeMarco,** Boston, MA
2. **Gaspar Ortega,** Mexico
3. **Isaac Logart,** Cuba
4. **Virgil Akins,** St. Louis, MO
5. **Johnny Saxton,** Brooklyn, NY
6. **Del Flanagan,** St. Paul, MN
7. **Vince Martinez,** Paterson, NJ
8. **Charley (Tombstone) Smith,** Los Angeles, CA
9. **Walter Byars,** Roxbury, MA
10. **George Barnes,** Australia

LIGHTWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Joe Brown,** New Orleans, LA

1. **Duilio Loi,** Italy
2. **Kenny Lane,** Muskegon, MI
3. **Orlando Zulueta,** Cuba
4. **Ralph Dupas,** New Orleans
5. **Larry Boardman,** Marlboro, CT
6. **Willie Toweel,** South Africa
7. **Baby Vasquez,** Mexico
8. **Paolo Rosi,** New York, NY
9. **Al Nevarez,** Mexico
10. **Johnny Gonsalves,** Oakland, CA

FEATHERWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Title Vacant**

1. **Cherif Hamia,** France
2. **Hogan (Kid) Bassey,** Nigeria
3. **Miguel Berrios,** Puerto Rico
4. **Flash Elorde,** Philippines
5. **Carmelo Costa,** Brooklyn, NY
6. **Ike Chestnut,** New York, NY
7. **Jean Sneyers,** Belgium
8. **Paul Jorgensen,** Port Arthur, TX
9. **Ricardo Moreno,** Mexico
10. **Kid Anahuac,** Mexico

BANTAMWEIGHTS

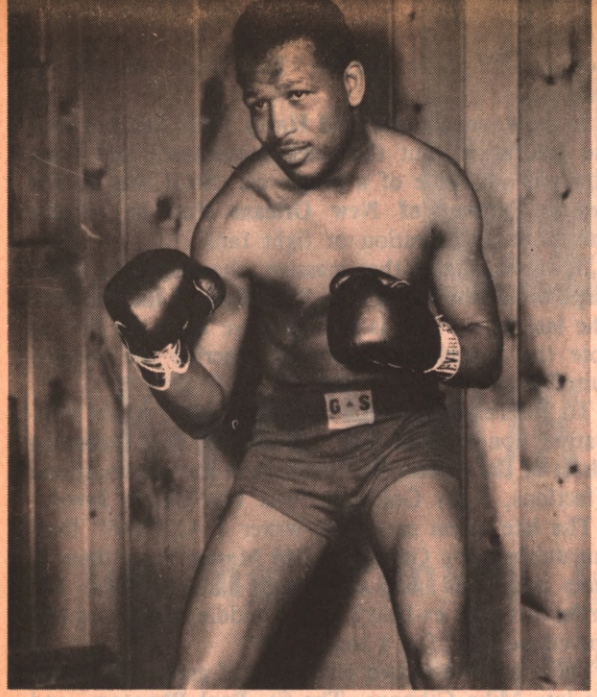
World Champ: **Alphonso Halimi,** France

1. **Raul (Raton) Macias,** Mexico
2. **Mario D'Agata,** Italy
3. **Leo Espinosa,** Philippines
4. **Billy Peacock,** Los Angeles, CA
5. **German Ohm,** Mexico
6. **Dante Bini,** France
7. **Al Asuncion,** Philippines
8. **Orlando Reyes,** Cuba
9. **Robert Tartari,** France
10. **Joe Becerra,** Mexico

FLYWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Pascual Perez,** Argentina

1. **Memo Diez,** Mexico
2. **Young Martin,** Spain
3. **Dommy Ursua,** Philippines
4. **Aristide Pozzali,** Italy
5. **Hitoshi Misako,** Japan
6. **Pone Kingpetch,** Thailand
7. **Danny Kid,** Philippines
8. **German Pardo,** Chile
9. **Dai Dower,** Wales
10. **Robert Pollazon,** France



Perhaps the most widely recognized nickname in boxing is "Sugar" Ray Robinson. There have been many Sugars since, but none compared to the original.

For many years, Young Stribling was known as **The Georgia Schoolboy**, until Jim Jennings, who also has a knack for nicknaming, sadly observing Strib's safety-first tactics in a fight with Paul Berlenbach, called him **Willie the Clutch**. Unfortunately for him, this phrase soon supplanted Stribling's earlier nickname.

In the latter part of the 19th century, such appellations at **The Boston Strong Boy** for John L. Sullivan, **Gentleman Jim** for James J. Corbett, and **Terrible Terry** for Terry McGovern, were household words.

George Dixon was widely known as **Little Chocolate**, although his complexion was more *cafe-au-lait* in tintage. The name **Gentleman Jim** fit Corbett's general appearance and dress, but was hardly consistent with the bitter feuds the clever Californian carried on with his rivals.

One of the unsolved mysteries of the boxing game has been the immunity of some fistic greats to *nom-de-guerres*. The late, great Benny Leonard was always just plain Benny Leonard. Gene Tunney, Barney Ross, and Tony Canzoneri were others in the same boat. Willie Pep was occasionally called **Willie the Wisp**, but never consistently or universally.

Although they were among the most famous in boxing, such nicknames as **The Scotch Wop** for Johnny Dundee, and **The Boston Tar Baby** for Sam Langford, are no longer socially acceptable, or even printable in many quarters.

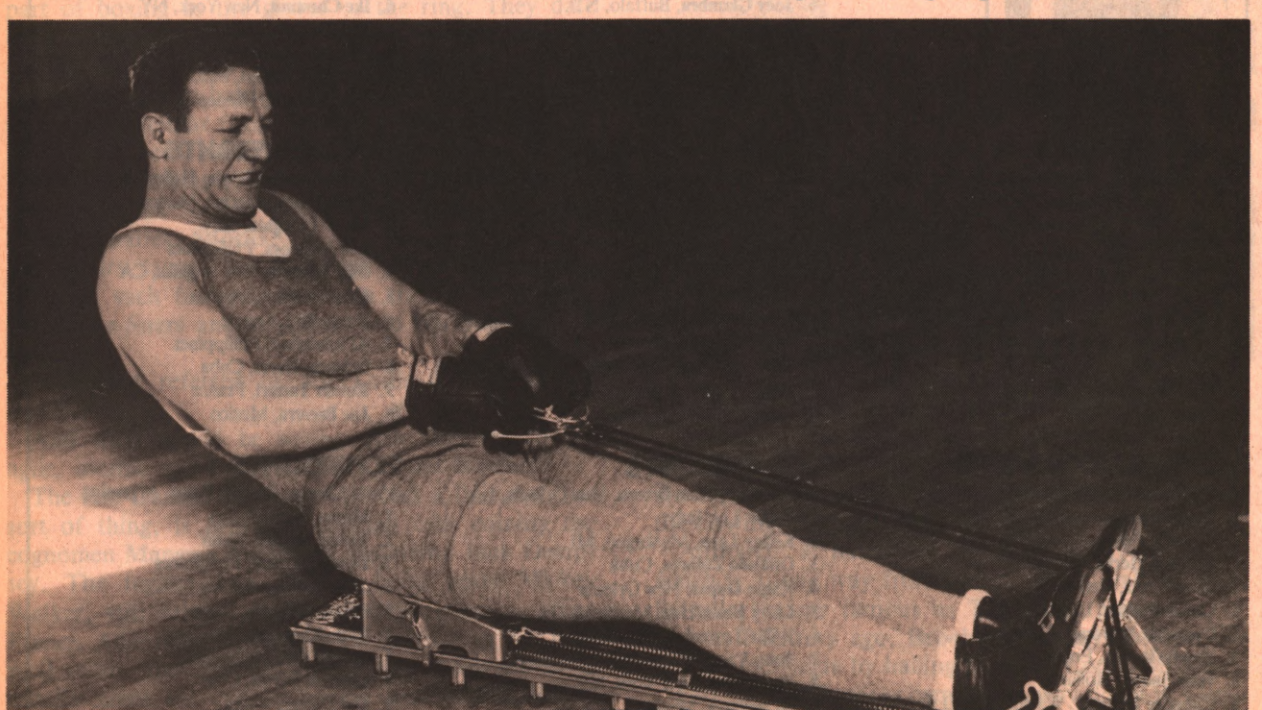
The late, great columnist W.O. M'Geehan tagged eccentric Battling Siki **The Singular Senegalese**. A long time ago, columnist Joe Williams called Maxie Rosenbloom **The Harlem Harlequin**, but this artistic designation soon deteriorated into the more familiar **Slapsie Maxie**—another Jennings contribution to the boxing glossary.

Not all the identifications that attach themselves to fighters can be called complimentary. **Willie the Clutch** certainly wasn't, and sensitive Tommy Loughran was keenly hurt when M'Geehan took to tagging him **Tanglefoot Tommy** years ago. The descriptive **Brooklyn Billygoat** does not make Paddy DeMarco happy, and ex-heavyweight champ Boston Jack Sharkey reserved his sternest stares for writers who called him **The Gabby Gob**.

Although he's now flirting with the half-century mark, Jimmy McLarnin is still **Baby Face** when he is recognized by old admirers or makes a public appearance.

He antedated the atomic age, but the great British flyweight Jimmy Wilde was tagged **England's Mighty Atom** by a prophetic admirer years ago.

Old-time Negro boxers really went in for fancy nomenclature, quite often giving themselves these odd-



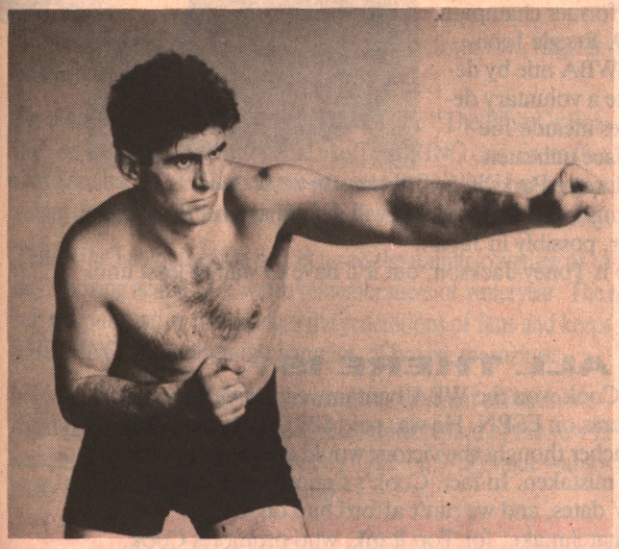
It was easy to understand why light heavyweight champion Maxie Rosenbloom was known as "Slapsie Maxie." His original nickname: "The Harlem Harlequin."

sounding nicknames. Such fantastic titles as **The Harlem Coffee Cooler** (Frank Craig), **The Trenton Tea Warmer** (George Cole), **Kentucky Rosebud** (Walter Edgerton), **Birdlegs** Collins, and **Steamboat Bill** Scott were typical of the names in which the boys took great pride.

There are two prominent "assassins" in *The Ring Record Book,* Stanley Ketchel, **The Michigan Assassin,** and **The Astoria Assassin** of the '20s, Paul Berlenbach.

Maxie Baer had so many nicknames **(Livermore Larruper, Madcap Maxie,** etc.) that none of them really took hold. The same thing goes for Primo Carnera, who was called **Da Preem** and **The Ambling Alp,** among the many of them that occurred to imaginative writers of the time.

The fragile appearance of good-looking Georges Carpentier so impressed an observer of years ago, and the contrast between **Gorgeous Georges** and the rugged ringmen of his time was so pronounced that this



Argentine heavyweight Luis Firpo was nicknamed "The Wild Bull of the Pampas," and he fought accordingly. Jack Dempsey was among those he gored.

writer likened the Frenchman to an orchid in a thorny thicket. From that time on, Carpentier was known as **The Orchid Man.**

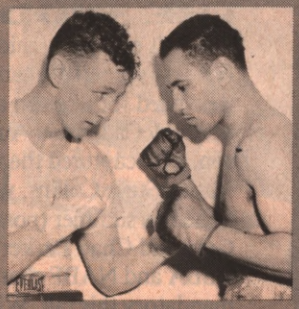
The coal-black hair and beetling brows of Max Schmeling caused U.S. scribes to stamp him **The Black Uhlan** when he first showed up in the States.

Nicknaming tendencies among the fourth estate today are but a shadow of what they were in the more romantic and unsophisticated early years of this century, but it is a custom that will never entirely disappear. Few fight fans know or care that Tommy is the real first name of **Hurricane** Jackson. Teddy Brenner, promoter of the New York Sporting Club, tagged Tommy with that one. With the exception of **Sugar Ray,** this is the most widely recognized nickname in the ring today. **Yama Bahama** is a name worthy of inclusion among the most fantastic of all-time, as is that of West Coast fighter **Tombstone** Smith. **Cyclone** is becoming more and more a part of Gene Fullmer's identification—another Brenner brainstorm—as is the catchy **Shasta Blaster** tacked on Eddie Machen by Nat Loubet, managing editor of *The Ring.*

Boxing is a colorful business, and with that in mind, the more nicknames the merrier. ■

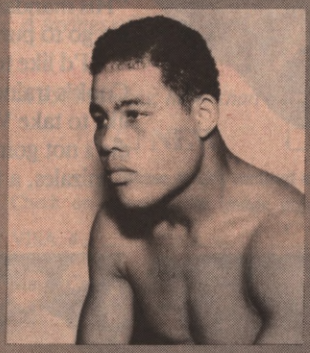
THE RING, June 1957

The Cover: Styles make fights, as suggested by middleweights Gene Fullmer and Sugar Ray Robinson. In January, Fullmer won the 160-pound crown by outpointing Sugar Ray. The rematch is scheduled for May 1.



Bubble-Busting Byars: Boston welterweight Walt Byars is making a name for himself by upsetting heavily hyped 147-pounders. Among his victims: Kid Gavilan, Bob Murphy (pictured with Byars), and Sugar Hart. Byars, an ex-Marine, is rated ninth by *The Ring.* He is also a social worker who is employed part-time at an interracial housing project in Boston.

Boxing's Newest Champ: Billy Williams looks at newly crowned bantamweight champion Alphonse Halimi, who won the title by outpointing Mario D'Agata in Paris. Though 25, the unbeaten fighter is a relative novice, having engaged in only 19 pro bouts. Like former bantam champion Robert Cohen, Halimi hails from the French section of northeast Algeria.

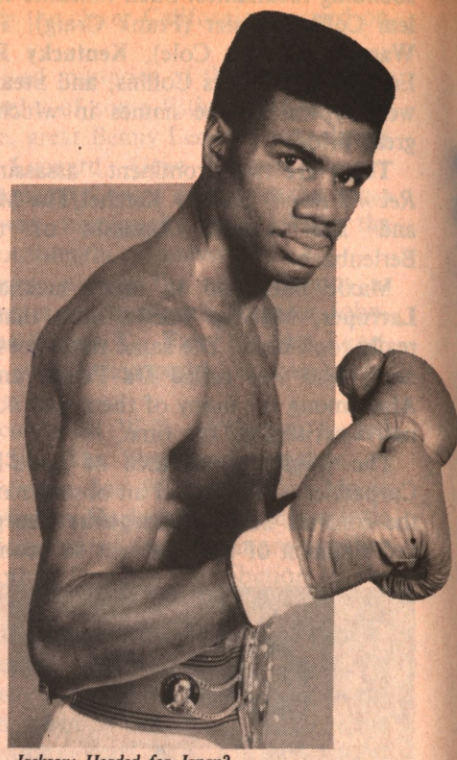


The Legend Begins: Twenty years ago, Joe Louis won the world heavyweight title, knocking out James J. Braddock in the eighth round. Associate Editor Dan Daniel examines the Louis legend, from his title fight victory to his retirement and subsequent comeback.

Fighter Of The Month: Three boxers share this month's honors. Flyweight champion Pascual Perez retained the title with a first-round kayo of Dai Dower; Alphonse Halimi, who won the bantamweight title by outpointing Mario D'Agata; and light heavyweight Tony Anthony, who moved into the title picture by stopping top-10 contender Chuck Spieser in three rounds (photo).

Looking Ahead

By Steve Farhood



Jackson: Headed for Japan?

MIXING THE MIDDLES

Don't expect the middleweight title to be unified this year. IBF champion James Toney is scheduled for a return against former champion Mike McCallum on August 29. Reggie Johnson, who captured the vacant WBA title by defeating Steve Collins, will make a voluntary defense this summer (possible foes include Joe Gatti and Chad Parker), and face unbeaten USBA and NABF champion Lamar Parks in a mandatory this fall. WBC champion Julian Jackson will defend against the ageless Sumbu Kalambay this summer, possibly in Japan.

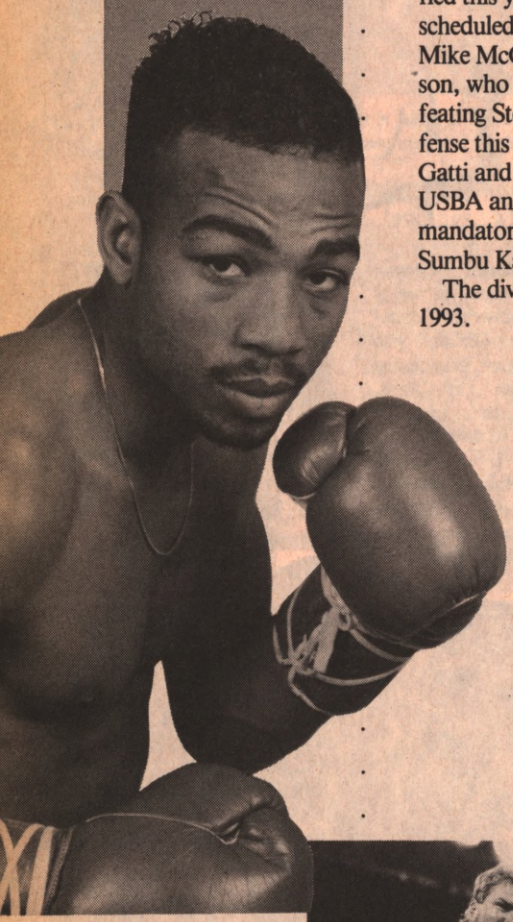
The division's best matchup is Toney-Jackson, but it'll have to wait at least until 1993.

IS THAT ALL THERE IS?

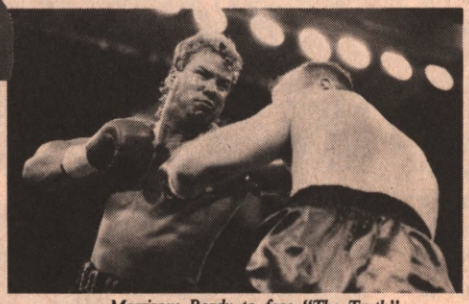
In March, Eddie Cook won the WBA bantamweight title by knocking out Israel Contreras on ESPN. He was paid $25,000. If the Las Vegas-based powerpuncher thought the victory would lead to big-money offers, he was sadly mistaken. In fact, Cook's options are minimal.

"There are no TV dates, and we can't afford him on ESPN," said Bruce Trampler, a matchmaker for Top Rank, who promotes Cook. "His mandatory defense [against Colombia's Eliecer Julio] will probably go to purse bids."

"I'd like to take him to Japan and fight there," said Ken Adams, Cook's trainer. "They appreciate the smaller fighters there. In fact, I'd like to take Vince Phillips and Kennedy McKinney there, too. Or, if Eddie's not going to make money, have him fight [IBF champion] Orlando Canizales, a fight with a purpose."



Cook: Nowhere to go



Morrison: Ready to face "The Truth"

LISTEN UP

If heavyweight **Tommy Morrison** gets by southpaw **Joe Hipp**, whom he'll meet on ABC in late-June, he's tentatively scheduled to face **Carl "The Truth" Williams** . . . In a bout to be promoted by **Don King**, WBC super lightweight champion **Julio Cesar Chavez** is supposed to defend against **Hector Camacho** on September 12. But King may not have the promotional rights to Camacho. **Dan Duva** has filed suit against King, claiming he has the "Macho Man" under contract until the end of 1992 . . . WBA junior middleweight champion **Vinny Pazienza**, who is quickly recovering from injuries suffered in a November 1991 car accident, wants to return in November and defend against the top-rated **Julio Cesar Vasquez** . . . Is **Sugar Ray Leonard** coming back again? Rumors persist that the five-division champion may return for a try at IBF super middleweight titlist **Iran Barkley**. Sir Sugar has denied such plans. ■

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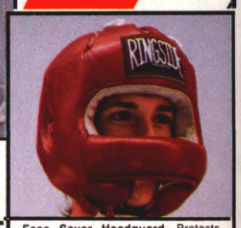

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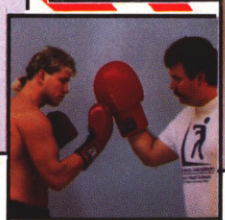

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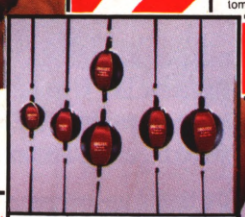

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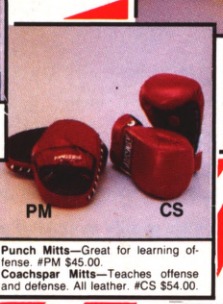

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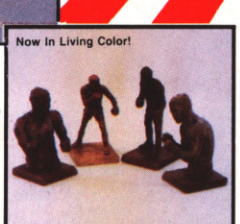

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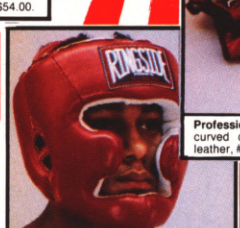

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